

Pandas give UBC a pucking beating

TREVOR PHILLIPS
Sports Writer

For the Pandas hockey squad, this weekend's Canada West semifinal was a stepping stone towards the another conference crown. For the UBC Thunderbirds, it was a baby step towards respectability.

The much more talented, faster and stronger Pandas bulldozed over the younger T-Birds in two-straight games, 9-0 Friday and 5-0, Saturday to advance to their sixth straight Canada West final. On the other side of the rink, the T-Birds, who were making their first appearance in the post-season since 2001, did as much as possible to delay a motivated Alberta squad, leaving their head coach, Dave Newson, proud of their effort despite being held off the scoresheet on the weekend.

"We look at this as a positive for our young team and a chance to gain some valuable playoff experience," he said. "You might as well get your feet wet against a team like Alberta, who has been to six straight National Championships."

Most notable for the 'Birds was the play of goalie Melinda Choy, who made 74 saves on 84 shots in five periods of work over the two games.

"She is a great goalie and she is going to be a great goalie for as long as she is in this league," Pandas head coach Howie Draper remarked. "Our game plan was to get a lot of rubber at the net and battle hard for rebounds. Overall, I thought we did a pretty good job of that."

Despite the effort by Choy, the Pandas juggernaut offence was just too much for UBC to handle. In total, the Pandas directed 103 shots on goal in the two games; 14 different players recorded a point—including Lindsay MacAlpine, who lead all scorers with five goals, and Tarin Podloski, who picked up seven assists—and went 7-23 on the power play. Meanwhile, the Thunderbirds managed only 13 shots against Panda keeper Holly



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

THAT'S HOW YOU SCORE THREE GOALS Lindsay MacAlpine drives to the net as UBC goalie Melinda Choy redirects the puck into the corner on Friday night. MacAlpine scored five goals in two games as the Pandas knocked off the T-Birds.

Tarleton and racked up 46 total penalty minutes. Friday's game was particularly penalty ridden, putting UBC at a large disadvantage and frustrating Newson.

"It was a disgrace," Newson said. "[Game one] looked like a pre-season game out there. We had a game plan for [the Pandas], and it was out the window on the very first shift; taking away the ability to play five-on-five and establish any kind of flow."

In total there were 22 penalties called by head referee Ryan Wass, who—according to Draper—was being critiqued on the game, which resulted in more power plays.

"Well, the ref was being evaluated;

with the [emphasis on the] new rules, I think that's what he was doing. In different [cities] there are different standards of officiating. Edmonton officials seem to follow the rules to a T. Unfortunately, the reality is if the rules were more consistent players could adjust accordingly," Draper said.

Pandas assistant captain Tarin Podloski agreed with her coach and felt the quality of the games would be better if the players could adjust better to the rules.

"I'm used to [the tight officiating] having played with the under-22 [National team] but it is frustrating when one referee calls a ton of penalties

one night, and the next night another referee doesn't call any," Podloski said. "The thing is, in women's hockey, they're so smart with the puck and skate so well that, if players could adjust, the game would be faster and more fun to watch."

In Saturday's affair, veteran official Ray Berezitzky was blowing the whistle, and the result was fewer penalties, more flow and a more exciting contest, though Alberta once again proved they were the better team.

"[This weekend] was a good stepping stone for us," Draper said. "I was quiet happy with our execution and our energy but I still think it could be better and will have to be next weekend."

THE GYM BAG

I know this may come as a shock to some of you Oilers fans out there—especially those over the age of 30—but the gigantic handjob that the City of Edmonton is collectively giving Mark Messier this week is just way over the top.

The retirement ceremony taking place before tonight's game is one thing. Only a select few jerseys of past Oiler greats—Gretzky, Kurri, Coffey, Fuhr and, oh yeah, Al Hamilton—hang from the Rexall rafters, and Messier is deservedly going to be among them. I can even see his hometown naming a portion of St Albert Trail after their prodigal son.

But the excess of extra-curricular activities that surround this long-awaited ceremony is more than I can take. There was the intimate "Celebrating #11" love-in held last night at the Winspear Centre, which was surely a gag-inducing spectacle to behold.

For its part, the *Edmonton Journal* has been going all-out with five straight days of Messier coverage, pumping out no less than 16 pages of exclusive Moose-related material on Sunday (including a graphic novel!)—and all this on top of their full-blown Sports section coverage.

Of course, Edmonton's sad-sack baby-bomer fans, still stuck in the glory days of the past and now with more money than they know what to do with, aren't exactly blameless in all this either. Their unquenchable thirst for all things '80s has now culminated in this: a pathetic deification of so-called hockey royalty that shows just how small-time Edmonton can be after all.

I think I can smell the mullet grease in Churchill Square from here.

ADAM GAUMONT

The Gym Bag is a highly irregular feature blatantly stolen from the Opinion section.

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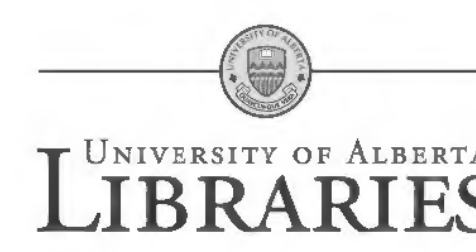
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Missed three by Morrison ends hoops Bears season

PAUL OWEN
Sports Editor

Mike Melnychuk did it in 2005, and Alex Steele pulled it off last season, but when it fell to CG Morrison to keep the Golden Bears' playoff hopes alive with a buzzer-beating shot, the second-year guard from Victoria couldn't replicate the feats of previous seasons.

"It's one of those shots that if we make it we're living, and if we miss it we're done," Alberta guard Andrew Parker said.

Down 88-85 to the Saskatchewan Huskies in the third and deciding game of the Canada West basketball Central Division final, Morrison, who had already scored 24 points, took an inbound with 5.9 seconds to play, but pulled up well shy of the three-point line and air balled his game-tying attempt, giving Saskatchewan the victory on Sunday afternoon.

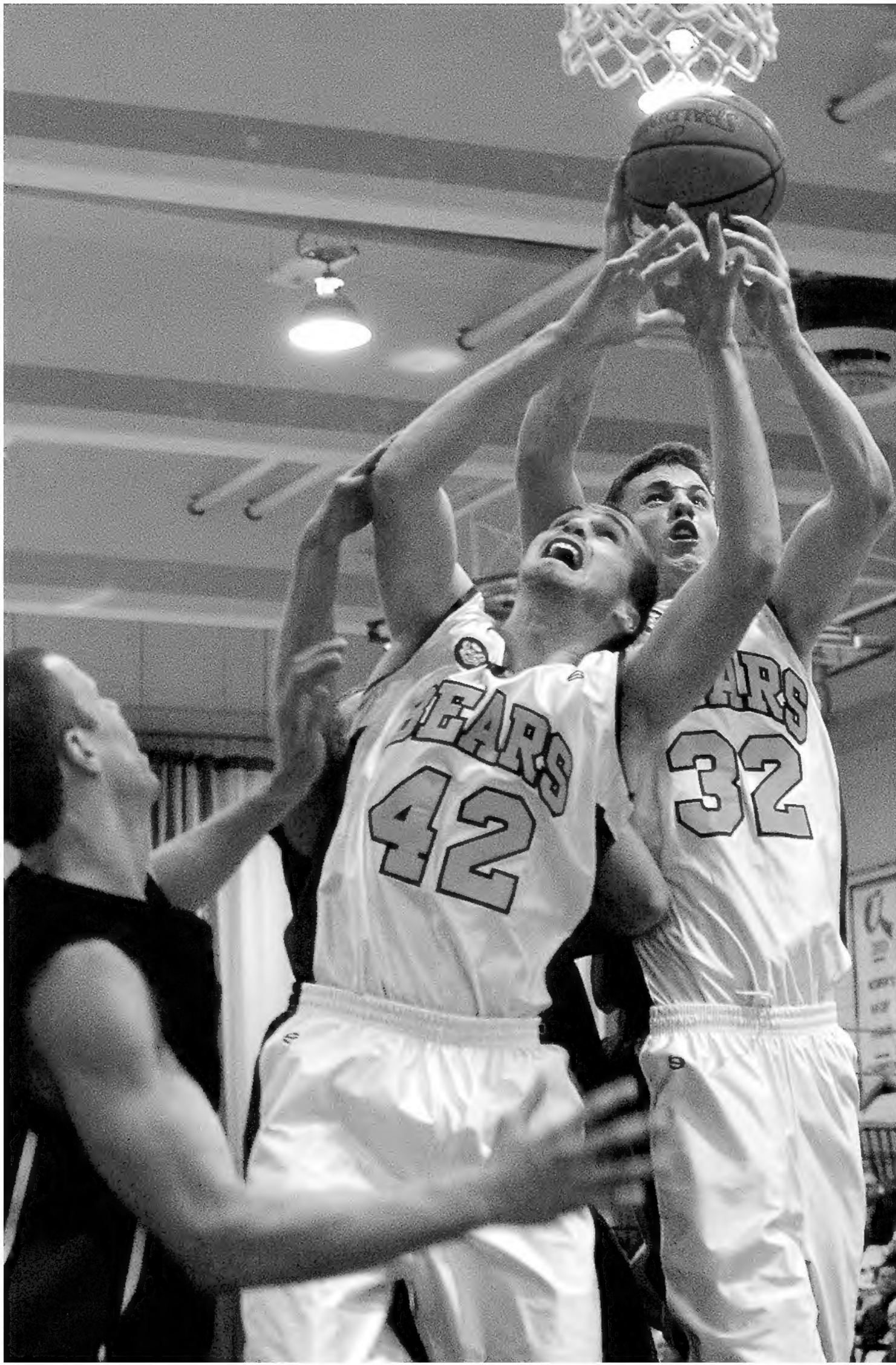
"I know that you can get the ball the full-length of the floor in 5.9 seconds. I think [CG] shot it a step or two early because he was afraid the buzzer was going to go," Alberta bench boss Don Horwood said. "From my perspective as a coach, I wish I could have called a timeout and tell him he could make it the length of the floor in 5.9 so that he wouldn't feel threatened by the shot clock."

"There are so many things you can look back on and say you wished you could have done, but it's over, so there's not much [you can do]," Morrison added.

A .327 field goal percentage cost the Bears in Friday's first game, as they scored only 16 points in the first half en route to a 64-51 loss. Saturday's 76-54 Alberta victory turned the tables—it was the Huskies who made only a third of their shots from the floor. Sunday's offensive outburst was the first time in seven meetings this season that the two teams found themselves evenly matched: the smallest margin of victory in the previous six meetings was twelve.

"It's funny because the first two nights one team was always cold, and then [Sunday], both of us were feeling it. We knew it would be that way; we don't usually play each other close, but we knew the third game would be close," Morrison said.

The start of Sunday's game appeared to be another blowout as the Bears took



LEANNE FONG

SAME TEAM Jeff Stork (42) and Scott Gordon (32) fight for a rebound in Saturday's win. The Bears lost in three games to the Saskatchewan Huskies.

a ten-point lead halfway through the first half. But, after scoring 37 points in the first dozen minutes, the offence dried up for Alberta, and the Huskies rallied to close the half on a 23-6 run, finishing with a 50-43 lead.

Saskatchewan's lead would grow as big as twelve in the second half, but Morrison, Steele and Parker got hot from beyond the arc for Alberta and hit six of seven three-point attempts as the Bears made it a one-possession game.

"It's tough going out like this; it's not what I pictured," said fifth-year guard Tyson Jones, who—along with Steele and Parker—was in foul trouble for most of the game but still added eight points and six assists. "The talent that we had on this team and how we were

playing all year, and seeing our team improve throughout the year—we had our ups and downs, but we had more positives than negatives. It's disappointing to go out like this."

The Huskies victory marks the second season in a row that the Bears have bowed out to Saskatchewan in the playoffs and the fourth consecutive season that saw the two meet in the playoffs: Alberta beat the Huskies in the 2004/05 division final and the 2003/04 division semifinal before losing last year's division final.

"Whether I'm losing to preschool kids or to Saskatchewan, it hurts, but this one really hurts because I know we can beat Saskatchewan," Jones concluded.

THE PEP RALLY

by Paul Owen

Pandas Volleyball

Canada West first-team all-stars Tiffany Dodds and Jocelyn Blair led the Pandas to a 3-1 upset of the Manitoba Bisons in Winnipeg on Saturday night to win the conference title. Dodds, who was also named Canada West MVP had 18 kills against the Herd and added 19 more in Friday's 3-2 victory over Trinity Western, which put the Pandas in the final. The Pandas will enter Nationals in Calgary on Thursday as the top seed.

Bears Volleyball

They may have disappointed on the court, but five Bears walked away with individual honours over the weekend. Terry Danyluk was named Canada West Coach of the Year, while fifth-year Justin Wong took home the conference's Libero

of the Year award. Setter Brock Pehar and outside hitter Joel Schmuland were named first-team conference all-stars, while middle Derek Proudfoot wound up on the second team.

Swimming

Both the Bears and Pandas improved by four spots over last year at CIS Nationals, with the men finishing in eighth and the women eleventh at the meet in Halifax. The top swimmer on either side was Doug Rawlick, who placed fourth in the 1500m freestyle event. Both the men's and women's 800m freestyle relays made the finals as well, finishing in seventh and eighth respectively.

Wrestling

Anthony Kulak won his third-straight gold medal at the conference championships in Saskatoon on 17 February, while Jarret Wall won bronze in the 72kg weight group and Jenna Yamashita took

home a bronze in the 51kg category for the Pandas. Both men and women finished in fifth place.

Track and Field

Despite being in what head coach Georgette Reed expected to be a bit of a down season as some top athletes took the year off, the Pandas track and field team took home silver this weekend at the Canada West Championships in Winnipeg, while the men finished fourth.

Neville Wright picked up a gold medal in the 60m dash and was joined on the podium by teammate Ryan Adams who won bronze, while the women's 4x200m relay team also took home gold. Matt Doherty took home a pair of silver medals in the shot put and weight throw. Joining him a step from the top were Jason Moss in the triple jump, Janelle Khan in the 300m and the men's 4x200m relay. Calgary won the women's conference banner for the third consecutive year, while Saskatchewan won the men's.



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Edwards earned second season

Interim coach deserves another year at the helm for turning the team around



PAUL
OWEN

It's hard to give credit to someone who never touches a ball in play, but Scott Edwards deserves all the accolades he can accumulate for turning the basketball Pandas from a team that hadn't won a playoff game in four years to a squad that's headed off to the Canada West Final Four and is on the verge of their first appearance at Nationals since 2001. Edwards will return as interim head coach next season, while former coach of 15 years Trix Baker continues her leave from coaching for another year, but will act as general manager for the club and handle the administrative duties normally required of the head coach. While it's a front-office model that is new to the University, there's a reason that everyone from the players to athletic director Dale Schulha are pleased with the decision: it's the right one.

It was a shock that Baker left, but an even bigger surprise that Edwards has been able to put together a 16-6 season and turn the Pandas into one of the top teams in the country. With the success Edwards has had, it's important to let him continue to see how far he can go; the change that put Edwards at the helm also brought about a drastic alteration in the way the Pandas play basketball.

Baker recruited and developed

the players who won seven more games this season than last, and a large part of their improvement as a team can be linked to their advancement and maturation as individuals, but the effects of their new coach are still easy to see. Edwards relates to this batch of players in a way that Baker never did. When she brought in eight freshmen two seasons ago, Baker had trouble adjusting from a veteran-laden team of leftovers from the 1999 National Championship to the group of headstrong rookies. The players—most notably starting point guard Ashley Wigg—and the coach clashed, and the stress of losing and dealing with their immaturity was visible in Baker. She wasn't the right coach for the group she was trying to lead, and the differences hurt this team on the court.

Edwards, on the other hand, fits in with the club. While his players have undoubtedly grown up in their first two years under Baker, making his job much easier, Edwards developed a strong connection with his squad right out of the gate. The two coaches are almost polar opposites: Baker is one of the most talented post players to ever grace the floor of the Main Gym, while Edwards never played college or university ball, but made a name for himself with his ability with the Xs and Os. Baker was calm and quiet on the bench, while Edwards is as emotional on the sidelines as his fiery point guard is between them. While both styles work for each, Edwards' matches that of his squad: letting out whoops when his team draws a charge, throwing up his arms in disbelief when he feels cheated

with a call and holding impromptu conversations with his coaches, the refs, the scorers table and whoever else will listen. And they do. Refs hear him out, reporters laugh at his jokes, and his players—especially Wigg, who is the motor that powers the Pandas—bob their heads as he dispenses advice. Scott Edwards has the ear of the people, and it's a part of what makes him successful as a head coach.

That's not to say he doesn't have other strengths. The Pandas look much more comfortable in their half-court offence than they have in previous seasons, and they also have the ability to score off of their set plays, rather than simply pushing the fast break and hoping that they'd be able to score quick baskets. Wigg has been able to tone down her theatrics on the court, and she's kept herself out of foul trouble and in games longer. A team that used to seem bored in their own end now prides itself on its defensive commitment and sits third in the conference in points against and second in steals per game. They find ways to neutralize opposing stars, like Sarah Crooks who scored 14, 22 and 15 in three playoff games well below her season average of 25.7 per game.

That Baker was willing to step aside and hand the team she built to Edwards has been hugely beneficial to the Pandas basketball program, especially since Edwards has stepped in and done such an amazing job in moulding the team into a contender. This team has been building towards a CIS banner for the past three years, and while it was Baker who was doing that building, it's Edwards who's the best bet to finish what she started.



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Searching beyond the beaten 'Track

With the Sidetrack Café's recent closure, SU venues might see the effects of local artists hunting for some different places to perform

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Nearly a year after moving to its new location, the Sidetrack Café decided to close its doors permanently on 15 February, 2007—the date of its 26th birthday.

The April, 2006 move to its current location was initially undertaken in order to combat the Café's numerous efficiency problems and to make room for condominium development after the land had been sold. However, because of many unnamed financial and legal issues, the new venue was forced to pull the plug and slap up a tragic "closed" sign.

Trevory Pomeroy, the Sidetrack Café's now former entertainment manager, couldn't disclose the exact details as to why the 'Track now lies deserted, but noted that the postponed opening of the new location—due to the derailment of a train carrying its new flooring—and the difference in atmosphere contributed to the closure.

"In hindsight, we should've shut it down [instead of moving]," Pomeroy said. "As it turns out, Edmontonians were more attached to that train and that old building than what the Sidetrack represented. If we had opened a castle, they would've said, 'This isn't the old Sidetrack.'"

The Sidetrack Café was one of Edmonton's biggest and most renowned live music venues. For Pomeroy, it was "heartbreaking" to have to cancel two months of events, especially for local bands. He says that local artists "stepped up to the plate for the Sidetrack in a way that would make you cry."



MIKE OTTO

SAYING GOODBYE TO AN OLD FRIEND The Sidetrack Café was forced to shut down after 26 years, but hopefully its usual artists will find another home.

But even with Edmonton's thriving music scene, the Sidetrack isn't the only venue that has struggled to make ends meet. The University of Alberta's Powerplant has lost \$209,807 as of 31 December with four months remaining on its fiscal year, and from Pomeroy's perspective, he's unsure whether or not the Sidetrack's closure will bring more business to the University venue.

"There might be a couple of bands that were supposed to play at the

Sidetrack that will go over there, which would be great for the Powerplant," Pomeroy said.

Colin Priestner, a local folk artist and University of Alberta student, sees the Sidetrack's closure as one less place for Edmonton musicians—specifically singer-songwriters—to perform and create a name for themselves. As an artist who's headlined a CD release party at the Sidetrack and opened for Josh Ritter at the Powerplant, he's skeptical about

turning to the 'Plant for bookings.

"The problem with the Powerplant is that for people that aren't familiar with it, it's hard to find and there's no parking," Priestner said. "I'm a little more hesitant to book a show there because a lot of my crew knew where the Sidetrack was and I have to go out of my way to tell everybody exactly where the Powerplant is."

However, according to Priestner, the Sidetrack's closure might lead to increased bookings at places like the

Myer Horowitz or local theatres like the Varscona.

"As a singer-songwriter, it's different than a band because you need to have some sort of listening venue rather than a drinking venue," Priestner said. "I've been considering booking a lot of shows at places like the Varscona Theatre or smaller theatre venues. Places like that are designed for listening instead of heavy drinking."

PLEASE SEE **SIDETRACK** ♦ PAGE 16



The Golden Dogs have their day

The Golden Dogs

With Jets Overhead
Tuesday, 27 February at 10pm
The Powerplant

PAUL BLINOV
Arts & Entertainment Staff

On the eve of their latest tour, The Golden Dogs are as sick as, well, dogs. When the young Toronto band should be out celebrating their modest-yet-growing success, they unfortunately find themselves trying to recover from a bout with the flu that's hindered every member of the band.

"[The Tour's had] a bit of a rough start, for sure," laments frontman Dave Azzolini. "We all caught [the flu] in Regina, so for about three or four days we all went through this massive sickness at my brother's place. He fed us soup and took care of us, but now, we're coming off a bunch of bronchitis/chest infection type stuff. Everyone's got the same cough. Yeahhhh," Azzolini trails off, and his dour mood is understandable.

If his vocals were to give out right now, the rest of their tour—promoting the foot-stompin' pop of their new release *Big Eye Little Eye*—would have to be put on hold. But the band hasn't been forced to pull any shows yet, and if their luck prevails, the Dogs will still

have plenty to wag their tails at.

For the first time in their five-year existence, the band is looking at a solidified lineup: Azzolini on vocals/lead guitar, his wife Jess Grassia on keys and Taylor Knox, Neil Quinn and Stew Heyduk rounding out drums, guitar and bass, respectively.

"We all caught [the flu] in Regina, so for about three or four days we all went through this massive sickness at my brother's place."

DAVE AZZOLINI

This lineup is the culmination of a number of changes, including Knox switching from bass player to drummer after their previous drummer left. Azzolini seems more than satisfied with the current roster of musicians he's working with.

"[The Golden Dogs] has been mine and Jess' thing right from the start," Azzolini explains. "But Knox was all over the album and was just as bit of a part of it as Jess or myself. This band lineup now is, I feel, pretty solid. I don't feel like there's too much distance."

Now complete, the band is also looking at their second appearance at the hipster-reputed South By Southwest music festival. This time around, though, Azzolini's hoping to get much more out of the trip.

"The first time we were just kinda hanging out, trying to get the vibe of the place," admits Azzolini. "[We basically just] hung out with a bunch of Canadian acts. It was a fun time, but hopefully this time we can get more [from the festival] than last year."

The South by Southwest festival has helped launch the careers of numerous Canadian acts including Sam Roberts, and having a second appearance there certainly speaks the volume of acclaim The Golden Dogs are beginning to receive. And while the flu is a temporary setback, there's even more for the band up ahead.

Furthermore, North America isn't the only place that's been calling for the band to strut their musical stuff. With the horizon looking ever brighter, the band's been asked to play Europe, too.

"We keep getting more and more e-mails from European places, which is nice," Azzolini explains. "I've always wanted to tour England at least once, just to see how we'd do there. I always figured we'd do well there if we ever had the chance. [Things are] starting to look good."

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Not another *Snake* groaner

Black Snake Moan is quirky, but it's also a frisky southern romp

Black Snake Moan

Written and directed by Craig Brewer
Starring Samuel L Jackson, Christina Ricci and Justin Timberlake
Opens 2 March
Empire Theatres

MATT HUBERT

Arts & Entertainment Writer

This little ditty from writer/director Craig Brewer (*Hustle & Flow*) gets its name from a 1920-something old south bluesy romp by Blind Lemon Jefferson. Really, though, a half-naked Christina Ricci chained to a radiator isn't the image we normally conjure up when we try to get our heads around the moral thrust of the tune. If you somehow managed to work yourself out of the "What-the-fuck?" malaise that the trailer probably left you with, you'll find that this film actually tries to take itself seriously. With a strong cast and formidable backing by uber-producer John Singleton, it's got to have a message, right?

Well, only half right. Christina Ricci puts on her best little southern drawl and takes off half of her Allman Brothers T-shirt as Rae, a young girl left behind in the wake of her boyfriend's military aspirations. When Ronnie (Justin Timberlake) takes off, the audience is privy to the consequences of a sex addiction that not even Mr Sexyback's immediate return could satisfy. The mix of drugs, booze and one or two cringe-worthy hotel room scenes tug the heartstrings well enough, particularly when our young lady ends up being left for dead on a backwater country road—that is, of course, until Lazarus (Samuel L Jackson) comes along and takes her in.

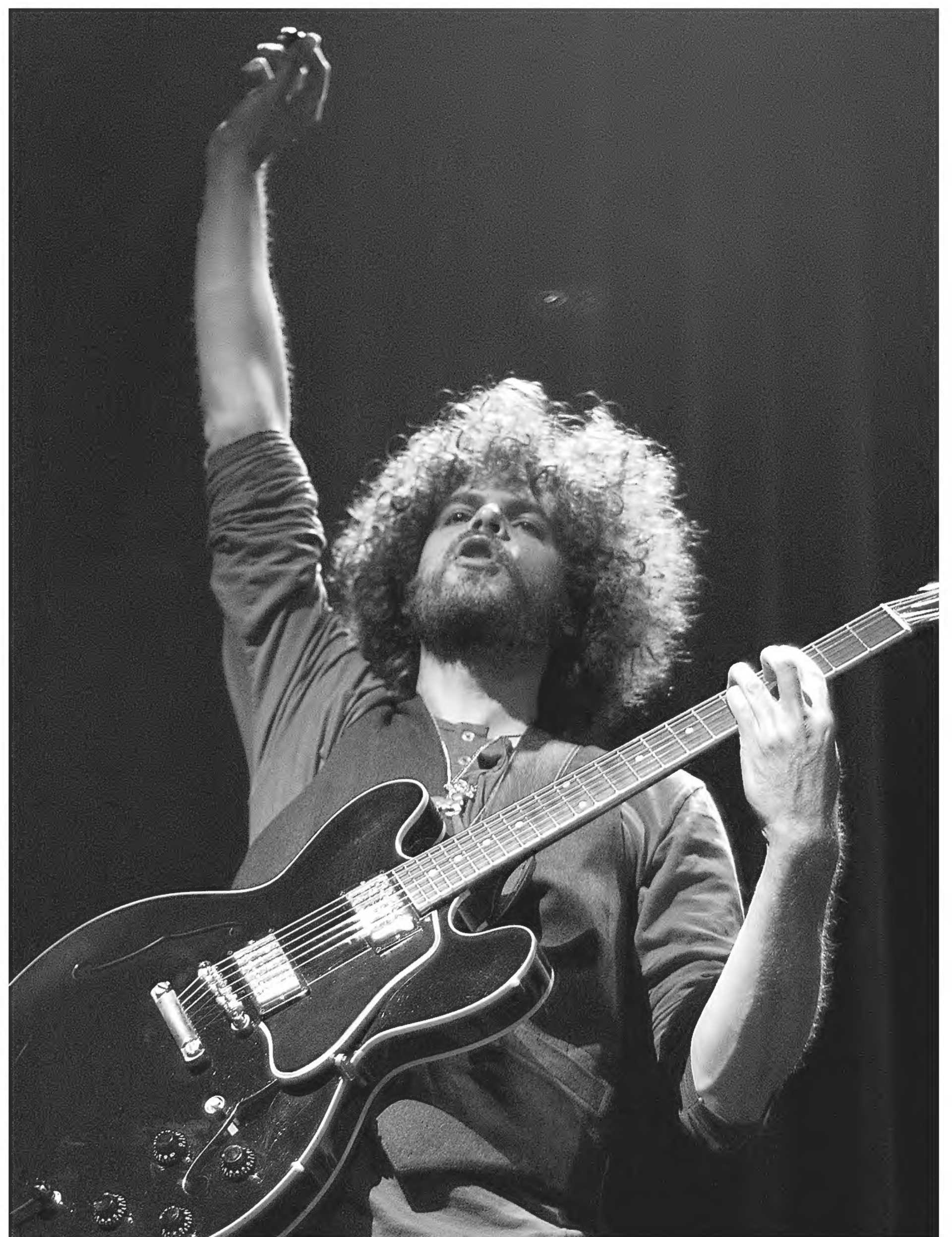
Ol' Laz is an aging blues man with a laundry list of issues himself, and after his wife leaves him for a long-time friend, he's prompted to work the proverbial devil out of our heroine. All the standbys of a good John Singleton story steadily gather steam and turn the film into a neat, funny and arty little thing with beautiful soundtrack.

The brand of hard learning Lazarus uses to work the wiggles out of dear Rae is a cool and



sadistic little ride through the Bible; it's a funny and great thing to watch. Laz even pulls out the guitar and chimes out some raucous songs (Jackson sings and plays surprisingly well) that are despicably witty in their own light. Exploring faith, sin, redemption and forgiveness are all fine goals, to be sure, but only when they can be discovered beyond the bounds of Lazarus' four words of wisdom: "Get your shit together." Thanks, Sam.

The film is altogether endearing and strangely entertaining for how far beyond it goes; you can either accept its silly and boundless tear through obscurity or make an unfruitful attempt at getting something truly significant from it. It's the kind of story that need not be appreciated for what its trying to say, but for the unique way its being told. It's another strange little gem true to SLJ form, only really worth a look if you can ignore its strides at being too serious. If you're not convinced that films are sometimes out to have a little fun at our expense, then don't bother double-checking my "motherfucker" count of seven.



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

WOMAN! Wolfmother set everyone free Sunday night at Ed's with howling vocals and crazy hair.



Ghost Rider crashes and burns

Ghost Rider
Directed by Mark Steven Johnson
Starring Nicholas Cage, Eva Mendes,
Wes Bentley and Peter Fonda
Empire Theatres
Now playing

RAMIN OSTAD
Arts & Entertainment Staff

It's probably a bit clichéd to say that comic book movies are becoming a dime a dozen, but it doesn't make it any less true. With Marvel, DC and Frank Miller all getting their hands dirty through silver-screen adaptations of our favourite heroes, there comes the need for a filtering process. Some comic book characters should be handled very carefully if they're going to come to life on the big screen, otherwise they can make a movie boring, vapid, and ultimately a waste of a good idea. And that's exactly what *Ghost Rider* is.

Nicholas Cage is Johnny Blaze, the stunt-motorcyclist son of Barton Blaze, who's suffering from lung cancer. After promising to run away with his girlfriend Roxanne (Eva Mendes), Johnny is visited by a mysterious man who promises to cure Barton's cancer in exchange for the meager price of Johnny's soul. Quicker than you can say "hellfire and damnation," Johnny sells it to the devil. The next day, Barton is cured of his cancer, but then promptly dies during a fatal motorcycle accident. Terrified by this turn of events,

Johnny runs away from home, leaving his sweet Roxanne behind.

Ghost Rider could have been a really good movie had the writers used more of the source material and less contrived film clichés.

Ten years later, Johnny is a world famous stuntman whose Evil Knievel-style motorcycle jumps make him a hero. Soon the mysterious man returns, calling himself Mephistopheles (Peter Fonda), and informs Blaze that he must now and forever be the Ghost Rider, a skeleton with a flaming skull whose job is collecting souls that are owed to the fires beneath. He's assigned to stop Black Heart (Wes Bentley)—who happens to be Mephistopheles' son—from finding a contract worth 1000 souls, hidden years ago by the previous Ghost Rider (played by Sam Elliot). If Black Heart and his elemental goons gain the contract, they will devour the souls and become unstoppable.

Ghost Rider suffers heavily from bad writing and bad acting, both of which can only be described as exaggerated. Nicolas Cage is all over the place with his portrayal of Johnny Blaze. When he transforms into the Rider, his movements are completely

robotic and overdone, making most of the action sequences seem pretty ridiculous.

It only gets worse with the supporting cast. Eva Mendez gives one of the worst portrayals of a TV reporter in recent history. Her character is nothing but eye candy, devoid of anything interesting to do or say. Her and Cage lack any chemistry whatsoever. And while Peter Fonda does a great job as Mephistopheles, Bentley's one-note performance makes Black Heart feel more like a petulant teenager than an actual demonic threat. Sam Elliot is also a treat to see on screen, but you can't help realizing that he's playing the same character he had in *The Big Lebowski*, except with a fiery horse.

The actors aren't entirely to blame, though, when you consider the script they had to work with. It's a bit of a fallacy to compare the interpretation of a story to it's original, but *Ghost Rider* strays so far from its comic book counterpart that you begin to question what part of the story they felt was movie-worthy—you know, besides the flaming skull. The characters are all given completely flat dialogue, especially Wes Bentley, and the love angle between Johnny and Roxanne is clichéd in every way, right down to carving their names in a tree trunk.

Ghost Rider could have been a good movie had the writers used more of the source material and less contrived film clichés. Unfortunately, not even Cage's fiery hands could turn this film into a sizzler.



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TREND HIRES ON AN ONGOING BASIS

Local artists, venues unsure how to cope

SIDETRACK • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

"Maybe the Students' Union has to step up and drop the rental fee on [the Myer Horowitz]," Priestner continued. "Artists from everywhere would rather play a theatre than a bar. That room should be used a lot more."

Meanwhile, Steve Derpack, senior manager of programming at the Students' Union, knows first hand how difficult it is to run a music venue. While local artists may vie for cozier, quieter places like the Horowitz and Dinwoodie Lounge, they cost a lot of money to operate.

"It's all fine and dandy that the artists want to play intimate venues, but the Horowitz is intimate in comparison with the Winspear or Jubilee; it's not intimate like the Stanley Milner Library or Velvet Underground," Derpack said. "Artists need to figure out what level they're at in terms of what their expectations should be to get paid, and once they've proven themselves, buyers will acknowledge that."

Being a drummer for the band This Civil Twilight, Derpack hopes to see fellow artists getting shows in rooms like the Dinwoodie and Horowitz, but on the other hand, he knows it's not necessarily cost-effective to put them there. March and April are the busiest months, and right now, Derpack has booked the Powerplant every single Wednesday to Saturday in March and most of the dates in April are already full. As it stands, he's unsure what the Sidetrack's closure is going to mean for Students' Union venues.

"It's too early to tell," Derpack said. "But am I getting people coming to me because of the Sidetrack's closing? Absolutely. Are we accommodating that? As best we can."

According to SU Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Chris Cunningham, only time will tell what effects the Sidetrack's closure will have on the Powerplant specifically and what changes the Powerplant will undergo in order to fill the void.

"Naturally, the Sidetrack was one of the main live venue bars in town so if anything, it eliminates one of the competitions for the Powerplant."

**CHRIS CUNNINGHAM,
VP (OPERATIONS AND FINANCE)**

"There's still kind of a review process going on regarding the Powerplant this year and its fiscal performance, so I hate to speculate what we would see in terms of increased patronage or shows," Cunningham said. "Naturally, the Sidetrack was one of the main live venue bars in town so if anything, it eliminates one of the competitions for the Powerplant. I suppose it would have a positive effect on the Powerplant, but it remains yet to be seen. I don't suspect that it will be a huge change, if any."

Taft's book no political polemic

Democracy Derailed

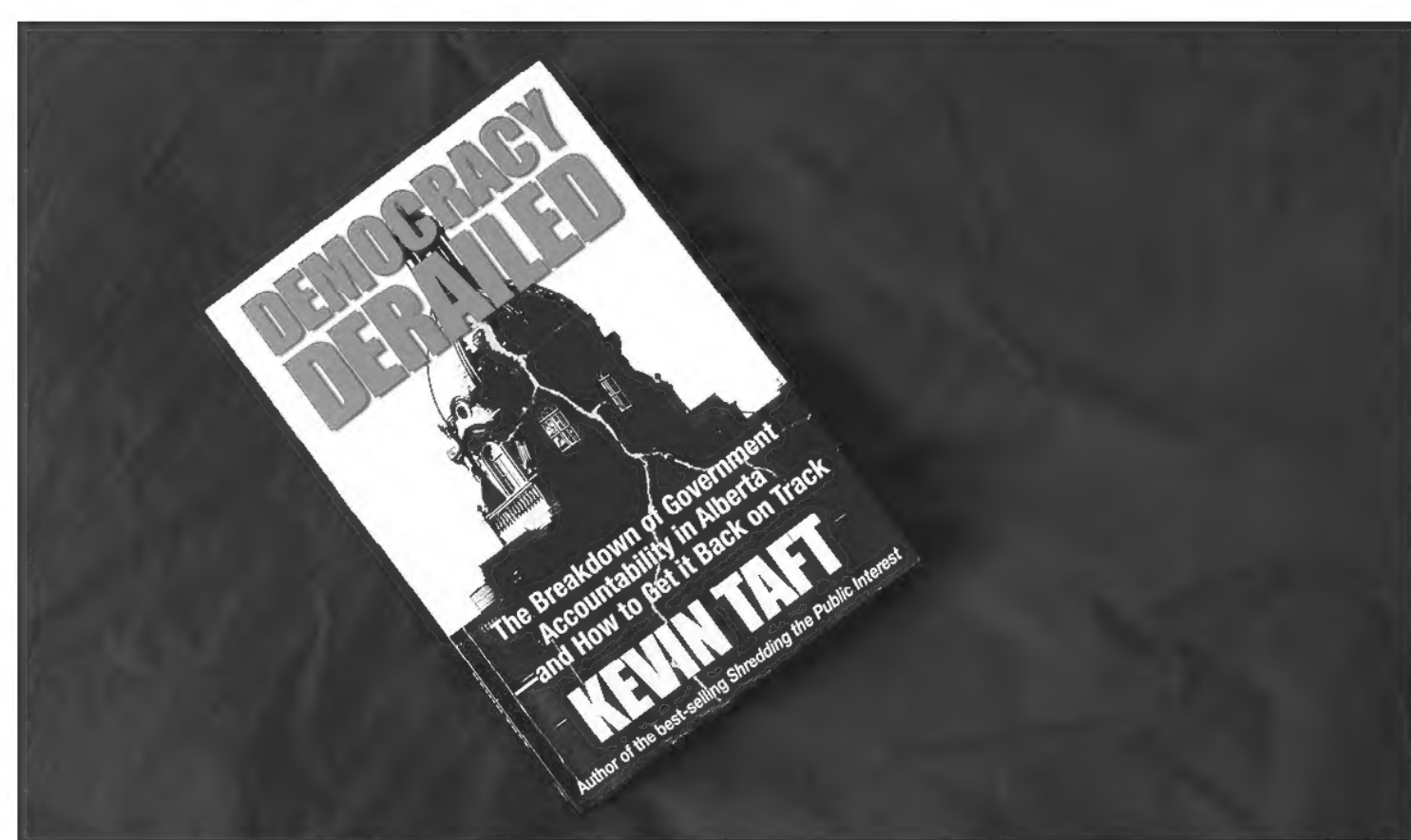
Written by Kevin Taft
Red Deer Press

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Arts & Entertainment Staff

In a world where politicians have begun to write tomes devoted to publicizing their big ideas of saving the world from poverty, war, global warming, Hillary Clinton and other problem evils, *Democracy Derailed* is an interesting variation on the politician-penned book. Not only is it a smart book that doesn't pander for voter attention by pulling at their heartstrings, but it's also being written by the leader of the Liberal Party of Alberta, which will likely ensure that more copies will end up in bargain bins than on bookshelves. That's a shame, because despite having a few problems, *Democracy Derailed* is a book that should be required reading for anyone wanting to cast a vote in Alberta.

In a brisk 111 pages, Taft does an excellent job of avoiding issues or numbers so large that the problems defy understanding. Instead, he stays wedded to exposing the basic democratic deficiencies that exist in Alberta. The concerns he raises about access to information and the marginalization of opposition and others are all simple topics, but ones to which the vast majority of Albertans probably devote little thought. However, by using a handful of galling cases to iterate his points, Taft poignantly and powerfully gets across his message and concerns about the system.

For many Alberta political junkies, especially among the opposition



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

C'MON RIDE THE TRAIN Kevin Taft talks about basic democratic problems.

parties, these concerns and examples are already well known. Still, the book does an excellent job of making these things easy for the layperson to understand. At the same time, Taft never talks down during the book, and his points and suggestions on how to fix the abuses never feel arrogant or like they should be obvious.

What helps *Democracy Derailed* be more than just an opposition member railing against the government is that Taft has filled it with outside sources and used them elegantly to reinforce his criticisms. By quoting people like John William, a staunchly conservative federal politician, and newspapers like the *Calgary Herald* and *Calgary Sun*—which aren't known to be overly sympathetic to the Liberals—the book can ably deflect any criticism that it's simply a partisan rant.

That's not to say that the book's perfect. For all the interesting information and cases it contains, *Democracy Derailed* does have a

major and rather annoying flaw that can be found throughout. Since it's a political book written by a politician in the first person, Taft does have a tendency to play up the goodness of the Liberal brand in comparison to Conservatives, all of whom he seems to treat as dishonest.

While this approach is called for when he's describing his party's work, when he goes out of his way to note that someone thought the centennial ceremony he hosted was "nicer" than the one hosted by Dave Hancock, a Conservative, it seems more of a petty attempt to score points than add to the content.

Democracy Derailed does manage to rise above the repetitive, nagging issues, which at the very least reminds us that the author isn't free of bias and likely has a motive beyond just attracting public attention to these democratic deficiencies. Despite its thin size, the content of *Democracy Derailed* is an enjoyable politician-written book.

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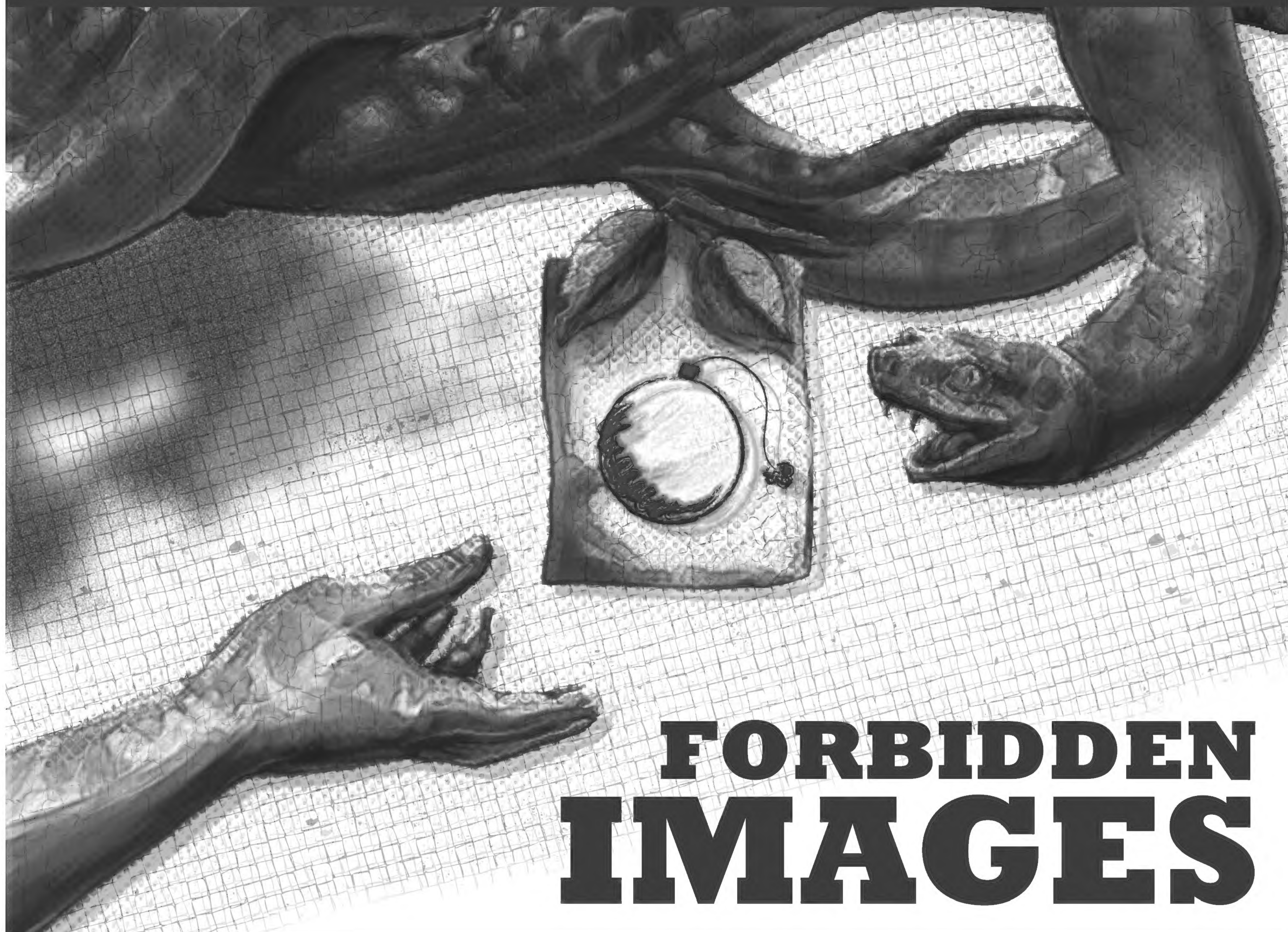
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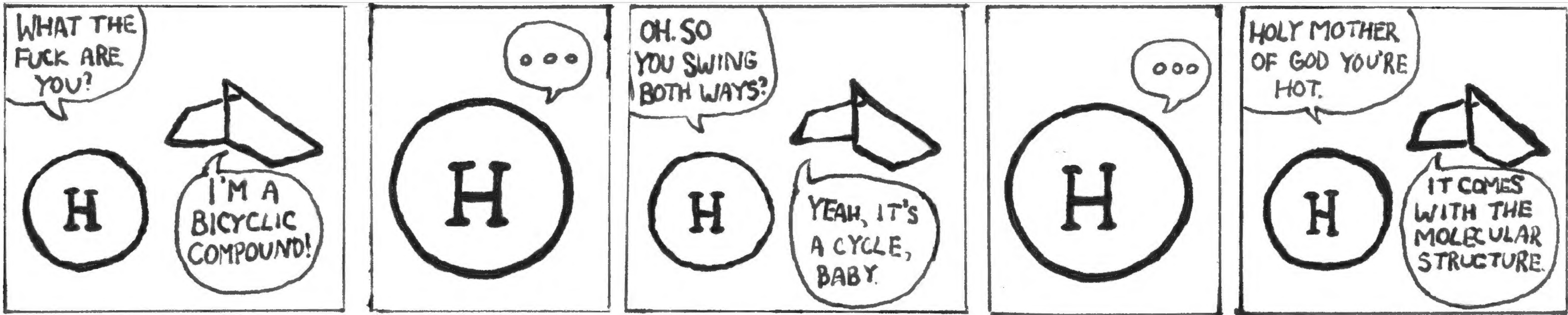
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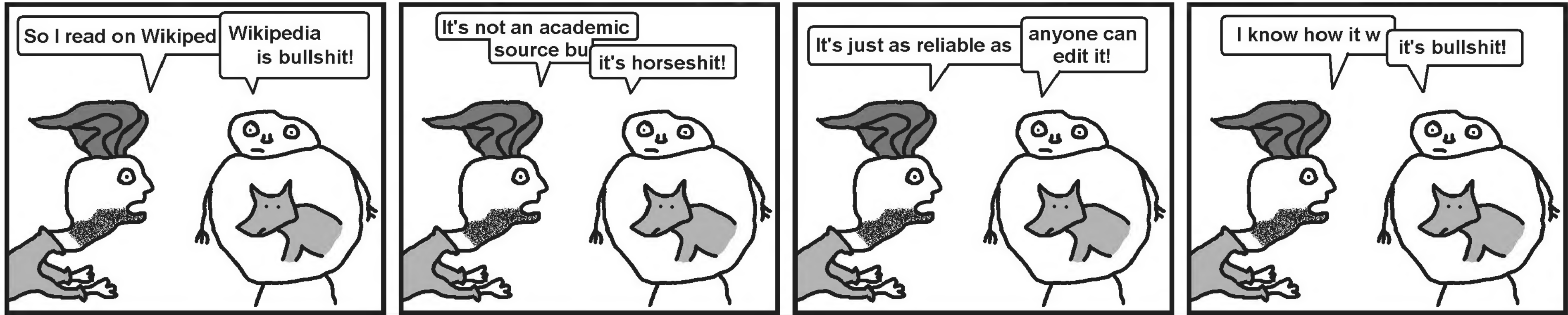
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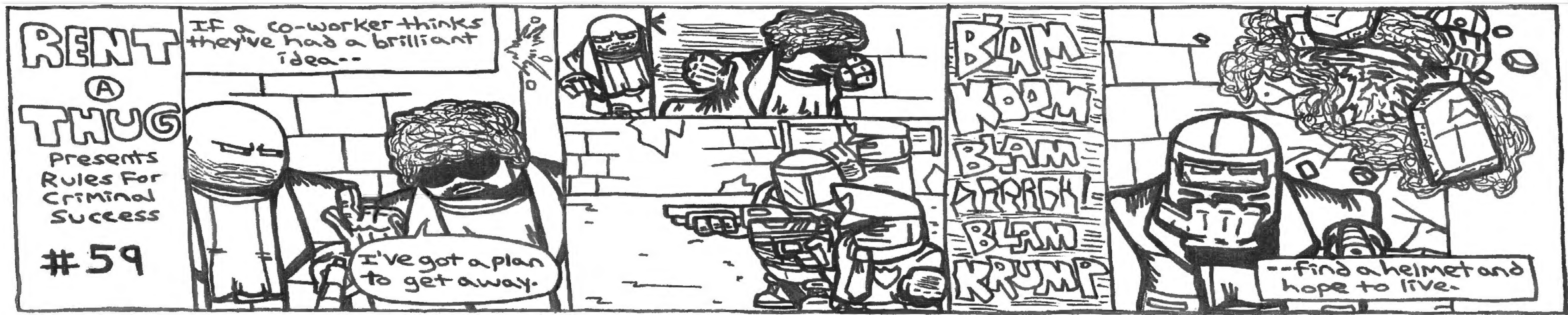
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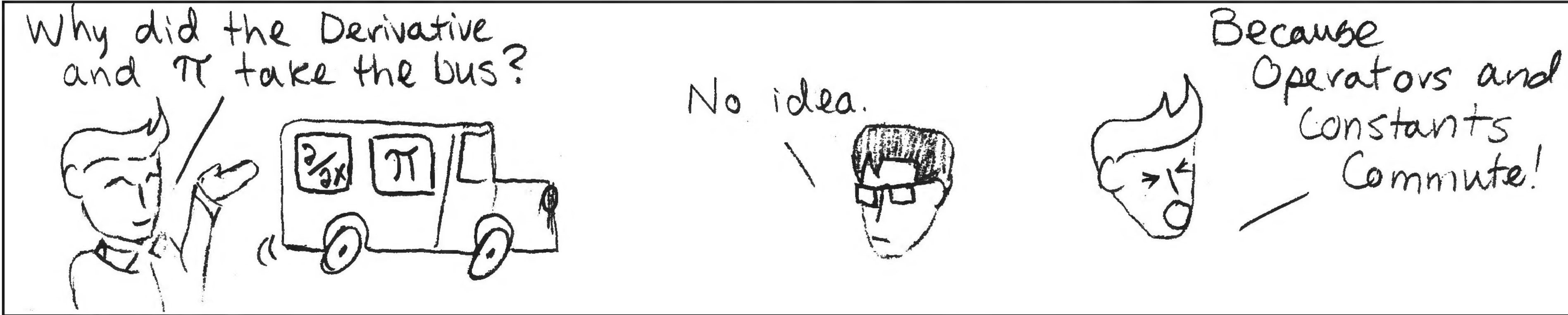
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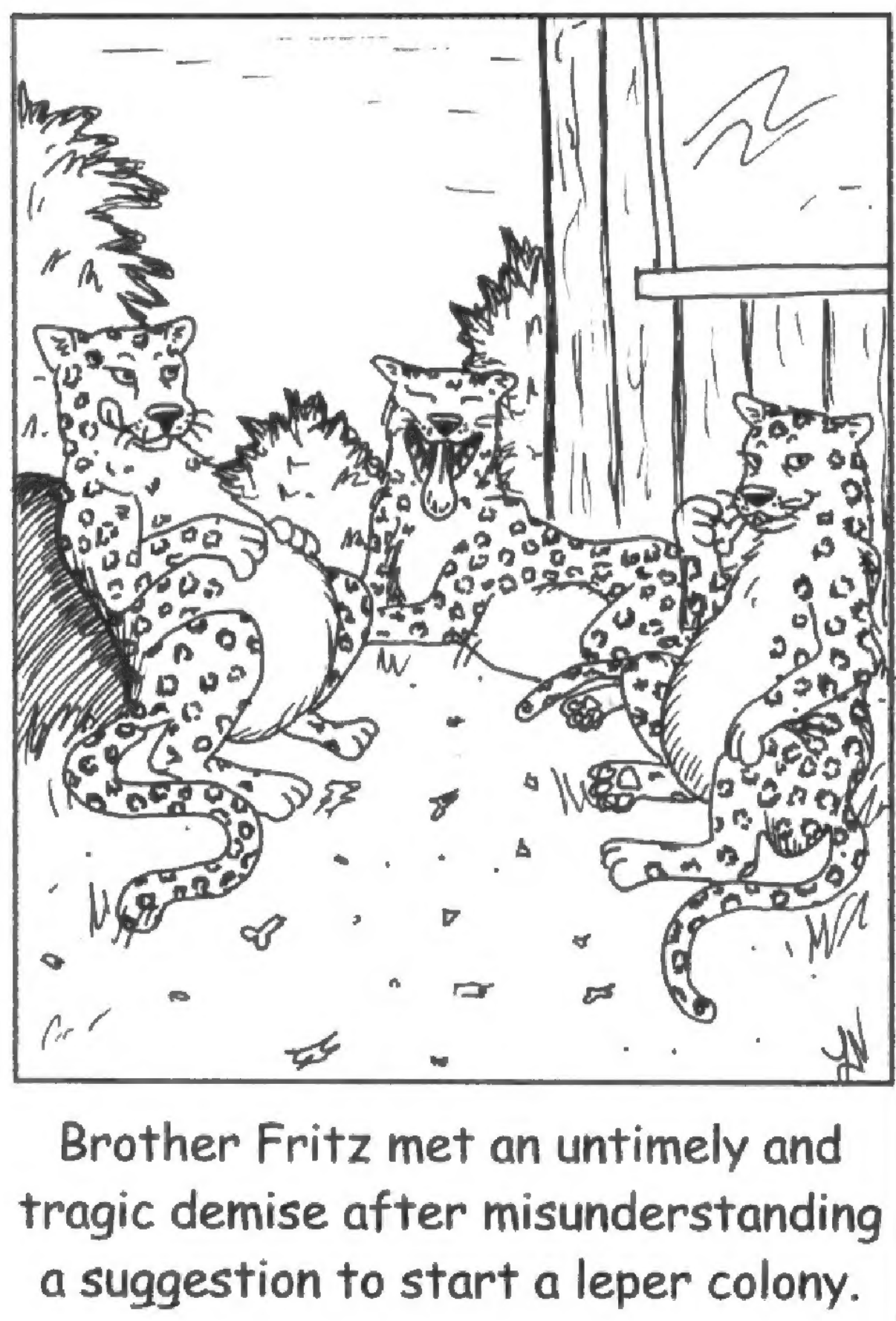
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THE GATEWAY

volume XCVII number 35 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ tuesday, 27 february, 2007



PETE YEE

SCORING IN BUNCHES Trish Ariss scores two of her 18 points in Sunday's 89-71 Pandas victory. Full story on page 9.

Canada, US still close: McKenna

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
News Staff

Despite disputes over softwood lumber and clashes over border security with the United States, the former Canadian ambassador to the US said during a lecture that relations between the countries remained good.

Frank McKenna, who served as ambassador from March 2005 to March 2006, spoke on 15 February before an audience at the Institute for United States Policy Studies. He touched on a number of contentious issues between the two countries, and how discussion, like in the case of the softwood lumber dispute, can

strengthen the Canadian-American relationship.

"I realized how important the [softwood lumber] issue was from the first day on the job, because I went to the White House to be presented to President Bush and he told me that he thought our countries get along really well, now we just needed to 'solve that wood thing,'" McKenna said. "The recent settlement on softwood is a good one and was the right thing to do ... because [it] was beginning to poison everything else about the relationship between our countries."

In his wide-ranging speech, McKenna noted a variety of reasons why he believes Canada is generally overlooked by the United

States while Canadians "have a near obsession" with America. He argued that this was due to Canada having a relatively small population compared to the US. He also cited an American political cycle that "runs red-hot all of the time," and has recently been dominated by issues like security and illegal immigration.

"Security issues preoccupy people in the United States in a way that they don't people in Canada," McKenna said. "We're aware of how devastating 9/11 was and we were traumatized by it, but it didn't scar our soul the way it did the United States of America. There, it influences all of the public policy choices that are made."

PLEASE SEE **MCKENNA** ♦ PAGE 4

New complaint aimed at Coke Yes

Ballot beef argues Coca-Cola advertising, Gateway opinion article should be seen as pre-campaigning

SCOTT LILWALL
Deputy News Editor

The second and third rulings relating to the Coca-Cola plebiscite question have been made by the Student Unions' Chief Returning Officer, adding more fizz to an already contentious election issue.

Both rulings stem from one complaint, received by CRO Rachel Woynorowski on Tuesday, 20 February. The complaint argued that two parties, the Coca-Cola Company, and the Gateway, engaged in pre-campaigning activities that gave the Yes side of the plebiscite an unfair advantage. While only one complaint was received, Woynorowski felt that the issues would be dealt with better with two different rulings. In the end, Woynorowski decided not assess a penalty in either ruling.

"[B]oth dealt with Coke, yes, and both dealt with pre-campaigning, but they were not intimately related to each other," Woynorowski said.

The complaint in the first ruling argued that the signage and advertising that Coca-Cola displays around campus constituted election materials. SU bylaws forbid the display of materials intended to influence voter opinion before the official campaign period, which began yesterday.

The Coca-Cola plebiscite question, which will be put before voters on 7-8 March, will ask students if they are in favour of extending the beverage company's current exclusivity contract with the SU and the University of Alberta. The agreement would give Coke exclusive rights to campus in return for scholarships and funds provided to the SU. If passed, the agreement would be in place until 2015. If not, the agreement would continue until 2010.

The complaint claimed that Coke's advertising around campus provided an unfair advantage to the Yes campaign.

PLEASE SEE **RULING** ♦ PAGE 4
ALSO READ **WARREN** ON PAGE 7

Graduate students pull ahead with U-Pass verdict

MARIA KOTOVYCH
News Staff

University of Alberta graduate students will soon have unlimited use of Edmonton Transit, St Albert Transit and Strathcona County Transit, thanks to the results of a recent Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass) referendum.

According to results released on 16 February, 83 per cent of graduate students approved the mandatory fee, totalling \$75 per student per term, set to begin September 2007. The price was made possible by a contribution of \$15 per student by the University.

Christine Delling, President of the Graduate Students' Association, was happy with the result.

"I was very excited about having such a strong Yes vote and such a high voter turnout [36 per cent] on that issue. People must have been interested in [it]," Delling said. "83 per cent is a very clear message of what students want."

Delling felt that in general graduate students will benefit from the U-Pass. She explained that many grad students aren't from Edmonton, so they might not have their cars here; and, for other students, avoiding driving to campus and parking will be a benefit as well.

"It also improves graduate student life at this University in general, and that's our mandate as the GSA," Delling said, noting that the U-Pass has environmental benefits as well.

Delling indicated two reasons that probably explain the high voter turnout and graduate students' interest in this referendum. It was conducted online, making voting convenient for students working in labs or those away on field placements. Furthermore, the GSA had been discussing the U-Pass issue and giving students a lot of information about it since April 2006. The GSA worked closely with the Students' Union on this issue, Delling said.

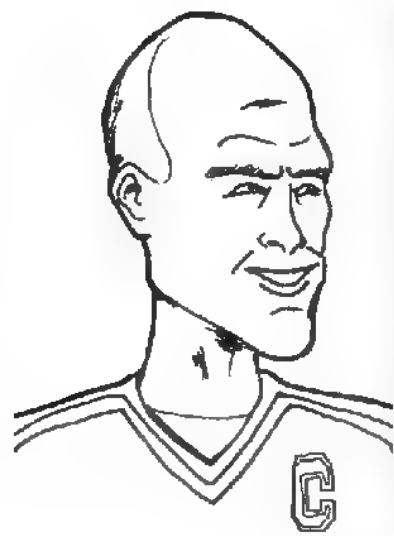
Students registered only in "off-campus" courses, those who are senior citizens, those who work for one of the three Transit companies or those who can't make use of ordinary transit services by reason of disability will be exempt from the U-Pass fee, but will be allowed to opt in.

On 7-8 March, U of A undergraduate students will vote on a U-Pass referendum during the SU elections, while Grant MacEwan College will hold their U-Pass referendum on 21-22 March.

ALSO READ **PRUSAKOWSKI** ON PAGE 7

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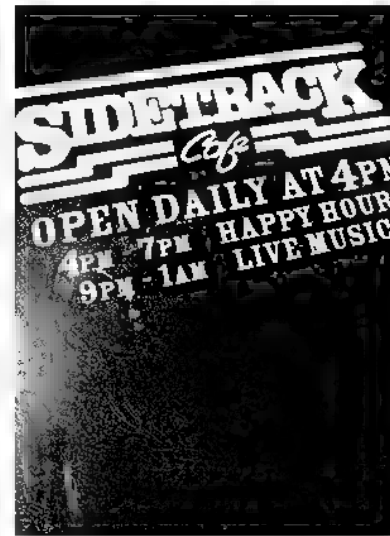
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Why is he smiling?

Is it his six Stanley Cup rings? His perfectly smooth dome? His love of greasy potato chips? Guess again!

OPINION, PAGE 5



RIP Sidetrack

The Sidetrack Café has locked its doors forever. Now, local artists must rock their jammin' socks elsewhere.

A&E, PAGE 13

Retraction

In the 13 February article "Just say no to SAKCoke" a number of incorrect statements were made regarding APIRG's relationship with SAKCoke. As a result, the Gateway unequivocally retracts all conclusions drawn about APIRG in the article. For the full retraction, please see page 2.

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3-04 SUB.

THE GATEWAY

THE GATEWAY

tuesday, 27 february, 2007
volume XCVII number 35

Published since 21 november, 1910
Circulation 12 000
ISSN 0845-356X

Suite 3-04
Students' Union Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 2J7

Telephone 780.492.5168
Fax 780.492.6665
Ad Inquiries 780.492.6700
E-mail gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca

editorialstaff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Matt Frehner
ec@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 5168

MANAGING EDITOR Chlo  Fedio
managing@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6654

SENIOR NEWS EDITOR Natalie Climenhaga
news@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 7308

DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR Scott Lilwall
deputynews@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6664

OPINION EDITOR Adam Gaumont
opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6661

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR Amanda Ash
entertainment@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 7052

SPORTS EDITOR Paul Owen
sports@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6652

PHOTO EDITOR Krystina Sulatycki
photo@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6648

DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR Mike Kendrick
production@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6663

ONLINE COORDINATOR Ryan Heise
online@gateway.ualberta.ca

businessstaff

BUSINESS MANAGER Steve Smith
bz@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6669

AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE Patrick Cziolek
sales@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6700

AD/GRAPHIC DESIGNER Lisa Lunn
design@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6647

CIRCULATION PAL Scott C Bourgeois
CIRCULATION PAL Morgan Smith
circulation@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6669



THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GJSJ), a student-run autonomous apolitical not-for-profit organization operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.



THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

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colophon

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contributors

Ross Sawada, the nija Prusakowski, Kim Mitsuka, Robin Collum, Paul Bino, Ramin Ostad, Matt Hubert, Jessca Warren, Amanda Termeer, Marla Kotovych, Yao Ming, Tre, or Phil, Andre, Renfree, Jeff Martin, France Fortin, Jinnah Rajan, Ross Lockwood, Phil Head, Graeme Head, L.L. Siders, Lauren Stegitz, Leanne Fong, Mike Otto, Ernie Fenwick, Kim Smith, Pete Yee.

RETRACTION

In the 13 February issue of the Gateway, an opinion piece by Ross Prusakowski entitled "Just say No to SAKCoke" made a number of incorrect statements regarding the Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG) and its relationship with Students Against Killer Coke (SAKCoke). As a result, all conclusions drawn about APIRG in the article must be unequivocally retracted.

The statement: "As an organization funded by APIRG, SAKCoke has used student funds to print and distribute stickers and posters outside the period of pre-campaigning," is incorrect. SAKCoke is not a working group of APIRG, nor has it received any student funds administered by APIRG.

Consequently, the following paragraph, which read: "The actions of

APIRG—a group that had an eye to participating in the election and that had, according to the written decision, been informed of the rules—are reprehensible and an egregious misuse of hard-earned student revenue. This also opens the door to questioning the principles and aims of APIRG itself," is also incorrect. As a result of an editing error, the phrase "this group" was replaced with

"APIRG," when in fact it was meant to refer to those involved in the distribution of anti-Coke materials. APIRG has never expressed any intent to participate in the plebiscite campaign.

Because of this, the article and its author had no grounds whatsoever to question APIRG's use of student fees, nor its principles and aims.

The Gateway regrets these errors.

COUNCIL FORUM

Compiled by Ryan Heise

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 13 March.

LOTS AND LOTS OF BAR GRAPHS

Students' Council opened with a presentation from Students' Union General Manager Bill Smith on the SU's financial history. While the presentation was a broad overview, stretching back to 1984/85, the most interesting parts dealt with more recent losses the SU has experienced. These losses included Computer and Network Services moving their operations out of SUB, as well as the Gateway gaining autonomy from the SU, which took approximately \$250 000 from yearly SU revenue. Smith's presentation also looked at

the history of entertainment revenues from SU venues and how they have waned significantly in recent years, with dropping attendance at the SU's entertainment events.

Following a brief public Q & A period with Smith, Council went in camera to continue the discussion.

INTERNATIONAL DIFFERENTIAL

Engineering Councillor Prem Erjavbetine presented on the current state of international differential tuition. Erjavbetine pointed out that differential tuition, which is paid as a fee on top of regular tuition, has steadily increased for international students. As approximately 12.4 per cent of all U of A students are classified as international students, including eight per cent of undergraduates, Erjavbetine advocated that the SU pursue a more equitable solution and better access to scholarships for this group.

QUESTION PERIOD

SU President Sam Power was asked about the student attendance for the

National Day of Action on 7 February. While only a few hundred students did come out for the event, Power pointed out that many students were either in class or working over the noon hour.

Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Chris Cunningham was asked about the process for students opting out of APIRG. Cunningham stated that the only way for students to currently opt out was to actually go to APIRG's office and sign a sheet—an act, he said, many students may have misgivings about. He pointed out that the SU has been looking into different ways, including an online form, for students to opt out.

Both Cunningham and Power were queried about whether or not SU fee increases were tied to CPI and when the last time fees were increased outside of CPI. Power stated that SU fees were directly tied to both CPI and enrollment numbers, while Cunningham stated that they hadn't increased outside of CPI in recent memory.

Lastly, the Executive was questioned about any future projects that would take advantage of a fund set aside for

special projects. But, before an actual answer could be given, several members of Council pointed out that the matter was discussed earlier in camera and question period came to a close.

COUNCILLORS GOTSTA GET PAID

Lastly, Council discussed Bill 21, which deals with the remuneration of councillors and Board of Governor representatives. Those supporting remuneration argued that councillors who are paid would have more incentive to do a good job and that it affords them the ability to devote more time to Council and schoolwork rather than work part-time jobs. Furthermore, they said, it's not meant to be an award for councillors, but rather a tool that helps provide a level of accountability to the SU.

Those against remuneration pointed out that the SU is already facing a budget crunch and will need to do something drastic. They argued that the role of Council is to serve students, and paying councillors does nothing to further this—it only serves those that sit on Council.

STREETERS

Students' Union elections are coming up again, and voting will take place 7–8 March.

Will you vote in the election?



Adam Kedmy
Science I



Richard
Beauparlant
Comp Sci I



Ania Werbeniuk
Science IV



Jolea McMillan
Education III

Yes, because then I'll have some control over what happens. Even if it's not power, it's still some power. It's better than no power. Even if you can't change the ideas that they present, it's better than not even being able to change that.

Yeah. I live in Lister, and I know Michael Lanz, so I'll be voting for him. I want to help him out, because he's keeping me alive right now, by running Lister really good. He's running where I live.

No, I don't plan on voting. I have no idea who's running. This is my fourth year, and I've never voted. Never even had the urge.

No, I don't plan on voting. I've never voted. I usually don't see the elections, and by the time they come up I haven't paid enough attention.

Compiled and photographed by Steve Smith and Krystina Sulatycki



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Women carry cost of HPV vaccine

ROBIN COLLUM
News Staff

A vaccine is available to protect women from a virus that causes cervical cancer, but anyone who wants to get it in will have to pay for it herself at least for the time being. Provincial governments have yet to approve public funding for Gardasil, which protects against several strains of human papillomavirus (HPV), and some are calling for the province to cover the cost of the important vaccine.

Gardasil provides protection from four strains of the HPV virus. Two of those are responsible for 70 per cent of cervical cancer cases in Canada, while the other two cause 90 per cent of cases of genital warts. Cervical cancer is the second most common type of cancer in Canadian women after breast cancer.

While the cost must currently be covered by the individual, Alberta Health and Wellness is waiting to hear from a national panel before they deciding whether to include the vaccine in the public immunization program.

"It's a very safe vaccine, and very effective vaccine as well, but we need to look at what a publicly funded program for it would be," said Dr Shainoor Virani, associate provincial health officer for Alberta. "We need to look at a number of complex factors, to make sure it's an effective immunization program."

Virani explained that a nation group of experts are currently examining the use of the HPV vaccine. That group is expected to come out with their recommendations by the end of 2007, after which an Alberta-specific panel

will further evaluate how to best distribute the vaccine in this province.

Doctors and public health officials are eager for an immunization program for the vaccine, sooner rather than later.

"It was released in June, and had been in development for years. We knew it was coming, thank God it's here; so why didn't people plan for its arrival?"

**DR BARBARA ROMANOWSKI,
PROFESSOR OF INFECTIOUS
DISEASES**

"It's amazing," said Dr Barbara Romanowski, a professor of infectious diseases at the U of A. "It's a vaccine for cancer. It's safe, and it's effective, and an excellent investment in a woman's future health. I don't know why more people aren't excited about it."

"When we, as public health people, look at the background on HPV generally, at the kinds of diseases it can cause, and at the promise of this vaccine, we're very excited," agreed Dr Marcia Johnson, Capital Health's deputy medical officer for health. "We look forward to a publicly funded program and we encourage Alberta Health and Wellness to fund it as soon as possible."

But for Romanowski, the length of time the provinces are taking to approve

public funding is a concern. Gardasil is only available with a prescription in Canada, and only Texas has provided public funding for it in the US.

"Any vaccine program for a new vaccine needs to fit into an existing vaccine program, but it's not like this vaccine came out of left field and has surprised anyone," she said. "It was released in June, and had been in development for years. We knew it was coming, thank God it's here; so why didn't people plan for its arrival?"

Virani explained some of the issues causing the wait for a public program for the vaccine.

"We're looking at how the vaccine will affect cervical cancer rates, what the feasibility is of instituting a program, what would be its operational requirements, things like cost-effectiveness and human resources," she said. "We need to make sure we've got the most effective publicly funded program."

Other unanswered questions surrounding Gardasil include whether it can be administered at the same time as other vaccines, whether patients will require booster shots in the future, and whether it can be given to men.

Right now, the vaccine is available through prescription or through the Capital Health business unit. Soon it will be available without prescription, though at cost, from certain public health centres.

"We want to make it possible for people to take advantage of it now, by taking away as many barriers as we can," Johnson explained. "Unfortunately the money isn't a barrier that we can take away yet."



KIM SMITH

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS RESEARCHER? Phillips' research shows that your mom was right when it came to drinking milk.

Research milks the benefits of exercise

KIM MISUTKA
News Staff

This year's Alberta Milk-sponsored seminar, "In Pursuit of the Perfect Diet," showed that having a daily dose of moo juice does more than build strong bones.

The 12 February lecture focused on the use of protein in sports nutrition and weight loss and the future of nutrigenomics—gene-nutrient interactions specific to each individual. Dr Stuart Phillips of McMaster University opened the lecture with the results of his research on the effects of different protein sources in relation to muscle mass.

Phillips presented data from a group of French researchers that implied milk proteins were superior to soy proteins in fuelling a muscle-building response. This supports his own study in which he compared the consumption of two cups of milk protein to an energy and nutritional equivalent of soy protein

after exercise.

"Milk proteins [were] more effective in promoting protein accretion following resistance exercise than soy protein, and we don't think it really has anything to do with amino acid content," Phillips concluded. "It's simply a digestion issue."

Many people believe soy to be a healthier choice, but his research showed cow's milk is better when applied in training.

Phillips said that if his short-term study holds true, then the long-term results of someone who chronically consumes milk could be hypertrophy—the expansion of pre-existing muscle fibers.

A twelve-week analysis was done with 60 resistance-training sessions. Participants consumed either two cups of milk, soy protein, or a control group of carbohydrates after their workouts.

"The milk group did gain more lean body mass than either the soy or control groups," Phillips said. "[They] lost

... about 1.2 kilograms of fat mass at the same time. So from a health standpoint they experienced a change in body composition that is quite beneficial."

He noted that it's hard to draw a line between a high protein diet and any clinical disorder, and that there isn't much evidence to suggest serious consequences from eating too much protein.

"Kidney stones? Not really. An increased risk of diabetes? Nope ... if you can find me the evidence I would be more than happy to walk away with it and put that up there as an argument of why you shouldn't eat too much protein," he said.

It may not be possible to consume too much of a good thing, according to Phillips, but protein isn't the energy source athletes need.

"Carbohydrates fuel performance ... the only drawback to a high protein diet from an athletic standpoint is that you are going to displace carbohydrates," he said.

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No penalties in election complaints

RULING • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Woynorowski, who in her ruling levied no penalty against the Yes side, pointed to past precedent.

"When we voted on the Coke plebiscite in 1998, we didn't make them stop selling Coke on campus," Woynorowski said in an interview.

Cosanna Preston, a volunteer for the No side who filed the complaint, said it was meant to bring attention to what she felt was a double standard.

"We do think that it is kind of ridiculous that the Coca-Cola materials on campus would be considered pre-campaigning. But we also think that it's kind of ridiculous that the material that was up before hand, in regards to Ray Roger's talk on Colombia would be considered pre-campaigning," Preston said, referencing posters and fliers given out by an International Week speaker.

A ruling earlier this month deemed those materials—some of which directed students to the website of Students Against Killer Coke (SAK Coke), a group opposed to the company's business practices—to be

pre-campaigning and asked SAKCoke to remove them. When they were not removed, Woynorowski fined the No side \$900.

"When we voted on the Coke plebiscite in 1998, we didn't make them stop selling Coke on campus."

**RACHEL WOYNOROWSKI,
CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER**

The second complaint argued that an opinion article printed in the *Gateway* also unfairly influenced the election. Alejandro Pachon, also a member of the No campaign, said that Ross Prusakowski's article ("Just say No to SAKCoke," 13 February) encouraged students to vote for the Yes side.

"In the article, Prusakowski makes [a] connection between SAKCoke and the No side, and there is only one way to say no to SAKCoke in the plebiscite—and

that is to vote yes," he said.

As with the first ruling, Woynorowski assessed no penalties. She cited precious decisions made by DIE Board, which found that articles printed in the *Gateway* don't fall under campaign restrictions.

"*Gateway* writers, for the purposes of elections, have never been considered volunteers, nor have their columns been considered acts of campaigning," said the ruling, quoting former CRO Matthew Hough.

However, both Preston and Pachon disagreed with the CRO's decision. Though not noted in the complaint, Preston added that the factual errors in Prusakowski's article (see retraction, page 2) may have left students with the wrong impression.

"[W]e think that [Woynorowski's] defence of newspapers and opinion articles are, in general, correct; but just not in this case," Preston said. "It doesn't matter if you're an official volunteer, or what the intention is, it's how it potentially effects the student body. Especially with these factual errors, [this article] is a serious concern to us."

Two nations have different views on security: McKenna

MCKENNA • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For the Americans, McKenna noted, security isn't just one of many important issues, but rather a prism through which the country views many others, meaning that atters like international trade and immigration are coloured by this US preoccupation.

"People in the United States say we have to fix our borders—not our southern border, but our borders."

FRANK MCKENNA

get drawn into that debate in order to create moral equivalency," McKenna said. "People in the United States say we have to fix our borders—not our southern border, but our borders."

In order to keep the Canada-US relationship strong and both economies running, McKenna suggests that more of the relationship between the countries needs to be institutionalized in agreements to remove politics from the equation. He also said that Canada needs to "remind [the US] more often, more visibly and more vocally" how good the relationship is and how important a trading partner we are. However, McKenna also believes that Canadians need to make a change of their own.

"It bothers me as well that we have as much paranoia as we do about giving up our sovereignty to the United States of America," McKenna said. "I think that sovereignty is as much a state of mind as anything, and in Canada and as Canadians we should be proud of our country and have more confidence in our country."

"Canada's danger then, as now, is that we don't get side-swiped in that immigration debate which primarily revolves around their southern border. The bottom line is that we don't have a problem [with illegal immigration] along the northern border and yet we

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FACT:

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The nature of Ed

IT SEEMS ED STELMACH HAS FINALLY MADE SOME progress towards filling his predecessor’s shoes, making what was easily his most arrogant and ill-informed comment as Premier to date last week. “My government does not believe in interfering in the free marketplace,” he announced to a predictably delighted group of business leaders in Calgary on 13 February. His point was that economic growth in Alberta—and particularly the oil sands—must not be limited by any governmental sanctions aimed at curbing CO2 emission.

This is an incredibly greedy and short-sighted position to take, even for a fiscally conservative government like his. Despite Stelmach’s cocky *laissez-faire* attitude, any real economist can tell you that there are plenty examples of government interference in the marketplace: for example, regulations against monopolization, exploitation and, yes, even pollution already exist right under his nose here in Alberta.

While in an idealized economic system no interference is required, these types of checks and balances are in place to adjust a non-idealized system (ie a dynamic planet that’s been operating efficiently for the past four billion years), one wherein so-called “externalities” can take place. And the impending global warming crisis is the externality to end all externalities.

Stelmach’s comments at the business luncheon were only the beginning, however. Three days later, David Suzuki, in Calgary for a speech of his own, made the relatively uncontroversial observation that unchecked oil sands development “doesn’t show any economic vision or leadership as far as I’m concerned.”

The *Calgary Herald* promptly attempted to transform this relatively innocuous comment into a bitter personal feud, reporting that “one of Canada’s top climate change crusaders blasted Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach on Friday, saying his reluctance to curb greenhouse gas emissions makes him unworthy of leading the petro-powered province.” “STELMACH BLASTS SUZUKI’S ‘HOT AIR,’” screamed the *Edmonton Journal* on Sunday in response.

Stelmach went on to say, “It’s clear that green politics are as much about emotion as they are about science.” But who’s really got the emotion and the agenda here? The thousands of scientists who have objectively collected mountains of data that clearly and indisputably indicates the need to reduce CO2 emissions drastically, or the business leaders and politicians who have money and careers invested in the continuation and proliferation of this lucrative but pollutant industry?

Despite their utter ignorance, Stelmach’s comments serve quite well to underscore what’s fundamentally at issue here. It all comes down to a question of what you put first: the economy or the environment; the maximization of profit or sustainability. But as Suzuki rightly points out—and what Stelmach and Co just don’t seem to get—is that without an environment, there is no economy.

I’m not angry at Stelmach so much as disappointed. Ralph Klein spewed such quasi-informed profit-driven rhetoric all the time, but here we thought we were getting a new face in Alberta politics—someone who, while still a member of the Conservative party, didn’t seem to have completely lost his grip on reality. Instead, it seems we’re getting another bull-headed businessman who’s putting a misunderstanding of the science of economics ahead of the science of ... sciency stuff.

Of course, an intelligent, dynamic and well-intentioned political leader could only ever come about in an idealized system too—and Alberta just ain’t it, I’m afraid. As a result, Steady Eddie’s visionless position shouldn’t come as too much of a surprise—it’s a bit like asking a cocaine addict to kick his habit mid-snort.

Still, I can’t decide which is worse: Stelmach’s flip-pant attitude towards environmental and economic sustainability, or the *Herald* and the *Journal*’s utter disregard for journalistic integrity. Oh, wait, yes I can: it’s totally the first one.

ADAM GAUMONT
Opinion Editor

An Oscar grouch

Canadian film
Wins best animated short
But who gives a shit?

PAUL OWEN
Sports Editor

LETTERS

Just say No to CRO’s ruling

(Re: “Anti-Coke posters net \$900 fine,” 13 February). Having attended the Killer Coke talk during International Week, I am appalled that this group’s materials are suddenly considered [contraband] on this campus, all because an SU election campaign is underway. These materials were passed out at the talk for those in attendance to help distribute and post; it is ridiculous that the group should now be held responsible [for] collecting and removing them when they could be almost anywhere.

Furthermore, to penalize a campaign side because members of this group expressed interest in getting involved with it is beyond absurdity. It is disappointing that the pre-campaigning ruling was upheld, as I believe with that comes the end of freedom of speech and freedom of association on our campus. Punishing the No side in this manner will ultimately accomplish nothing but silencing valuable information that would have helped students to make an informed decision on this issue. If nothing else this should be a wake up call to students as to the sad state of affairs of our student government.

HELENE PARADIS
Arts II

Gateway now a tabloid, apparently

(Re: “Democracy gets drowned out by anti-Coke antics,” “Just say No to SA<Coke,” 13 February). I must say, it has been a while since I’ve seen such a display of poor reporting in the *Gateway*. You make several references to this SA<Coke group, but yet you do not include their side of the story or any information about them that did not come from either your own opinion or the Students’ Union. You blame this group for the posters and stickers around campus, but who is this group? They seem almost like a non-entity seeing [as] no one actually seems to know who any of them are, or if you do you at least don’t talk to them. Also, I attended the Ray Rogers event during I-Week, and the tables there were stacked with these materials, which were all free for the taking. The fact that Mr Prusakowski and Mr Frehner’s articles seem to blame this group for all these materials being up makes no sense whatsoever, as they were being distributed even at C.S.R for cripe’s sake! I can only hope the remaining elections coverage will be a little bit more thoughtful and a little less tabloidish.

AIMEE BRYANT
Native Studies II

Pre-campaigning rules need revising

I was saddened by the lack of thoughtfulness expressed in the 13 February issue of the *Gateway*. Specifically, I was struck by the unwillingness of the Opinion writers to critically evaluate the implications of the recent development in “the Coke question.” The two pieces

CHRIS ALDERSON
Political Science IV



Enjoy bitter irony

I’m thrilled that the University has taken such a hard stance on pre-campaigning—it’s not as though Coke machines every 30 feet, bright red Coca-Cola cups everywhere on campus and million-dollar commercials count as swaying the masses. We wouldn’t want an under-funded, under-represented group to have an unfair advantage over a billion-dollar international corporation would we?

EMILY WILLIAMS
Science I

Free speech should include anti-Coke materials as well

I was thoroughly disappointed with Matt Frehner’s [13 February editorial], “Democracy gets drowned out by anti-Coke antics.” He posits that the “immature,” “alarmist” Killer Coke posters and paraphernalia that have been popping up around campus will interfere with U of A students’ ability to make an informed decision when voting in the Coke sponsorship plebiscite in the near future. What it seems he’s really saying is that he agrees with Rachel Woynorowski that freedom of speech should be punished with a \$900 fine—to a group that has no involvement with the SU plebiscite to begin with!

Firstly, I’m insulted that Frehner had the audacity to insult the student population’s intelligence by suggesting that we are incapable of doing some research on this issue ourselves. At least those “alarmist” posters were able to get people thinking. Posters alone do not have the power, though, to turn someone into an irrational extremist. Get a grip, Matt.
And as for Rachel Woynorowski’s

accusation of pre-campaigning, this is not a case of one side trying to gain a political advantage over another. This is a matter of informing students about their personal contribution to the abuses that the people who make their life more comfortable suffer from in the name of capitalism. In a liberal institution such as the University of Alberta, it only makes sense that students should be able to exercise their rights as Canadian citizens and as compassionate human beings. We’re all here to learn something. Don’t get in our way, Rachel! And while you’re at it, grow a heart and a conscience.

KAYTLIN WOYNOROWSKI
Arts I

Fort Sask part of ‘Pass

(Re: “Transit costs don’t add up,” 8 February). I would like to quickly clear up something in response to Ms Sayer’s 8 February letter regarding transit costs for Ft Saskatchewan transit users. The \$129 Ft Saskatchewan monthly student pass is actually two passes in one: a \$/5 pass that grants ridership on the Ft Saskatchewan service to Clareview LRT, and then a \$54/month ETS student pass that allows her unlimited use of the ETS system.

Should the U-Pass be adopted at referendum Ms Sayer will be able to purchase just the \$/5/month Ft Saskatchewan student transit pass to travel to Clareview LRT station, and could then use her U-Pass to ride anywhere on ETS thereafter. Indeed, Ms Sayer would experience the very same net savings with the U-Pass as every other student who currently buys an ETS pass.

SAMANTHA POWER
SU President

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LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The Rodeo's over, Gateway

I just recently picked up a copy of the Gateway and came across the Valentine's Day Massacre article (re: "The Gateway's Valentine's Day Massacre (sans massacre)," 13 February). After glancing it over in dismay, I felt a real sense of embarrassment to be a student at the U of A, a school where this display of perversion is considered acceptable, publishable material. I cannot believe that this article is not considered offensive ... where I come from, the situation termed "Rodeo" would be considered rape and definitely not a laughing matter. Not only was the article disgusting, it was also incredibly demeaning to women (and quite obviously written by men). I am incredibly disappointed in your newspaper as I would have expected a much higher level of professionalism from you.

BUFFY DEBREUIL
Via e-mail

V-Day page impure indeed

You may have crossed the line ... with the "Alternative" love techniques presented in your latest issue. I thought that perhaps I was just being a prude; however, I passed it around to our helpdesk consultants (who are all students) and they all thought it was seriously pushing the limit of considerate journalism. As an employee and past student, I am very proud of the University of Alberta for many reasons but due to this incredibly despicable article, the Gateway is no longer one of these reasons. It is a shame, as it is these types of articles that remove credibility from your paper and, even worse, from your legitimate and talented Gateway journalists.

ALANNA COLLICUTT
Via e-mail

Conflicting missionary statement

(Re: "Gateway comic sets a double standard," 13 February). The letters to

the editor may not be published due to racism, sexism or general hatred. However, the Gateway cartoons are a completely different matter. Most of them manage to cram racism, sexism and hatred into the same panel. They've certainly published far more offensive cartoons in the past (see any "Mich Mich" or The "Blowie Show" for examples), and you haven't complained. Are we to take it that writing about snorting cocaine off a dead hooker is okay, but expressing honest indignation about the aggressive and often highly ethnocentric practices of some Christian missionaries isn't?

I don't feel that missionaries who knock on my door are evil or wrong *per se*. In fact, I love them for their mistakes. I just feel that their choice of lifestyle does not represent an appropriate way to live and could negatively influence impressionable young children to grow up and become missionaries, too. The minute they renounce their lifestyle, enroll in a six-week reorientation camp, lose their flamboyant garb and start acting "normal," then I'll be there to embrace them with open arms.

ERIC CHAMNEY
Science IV

Bottled-up rage for BeerFest

On hearing about the first [Edmonton International BeerFest], I rushed out and bought two tickets for a total of \$36 (with Ticketmaster booking fees). There wasn't much information on which breweries would be there, but beer festivals are generally a great way to sample beers from local microbreweries and this sounded like a good night out.

On arriving, we were told to join the end of a lengthy queue, with admission on a one-out, one-in basis. A second queue comprised non-ticket holders. Unsurprisingly, at 8:30pm on [a] Saturday evening, nobody was leaving. Evidently, more tickets had been sold than the capacity of the Dinwoodie Lounge. Ridiculous! So the organizers make a big profit by selling extra tickets and we don't even get to enjoy an event we've paid for?

The organization of this beer festival was amateurish, but with a bit more effort could have been an event to remember. As it happens, having heard of the overwhelming presence of the

big brewers (Coors, Molson etc) with relatively few local breweries, we were happy to have our Saturday evening beers elsewhere.

If the organizers would like suggestions as to how this event can be improved in the future, I would be more than happy to make suggestions. Unfortunately (to quote a British proverb), these guys couldn't organize a piss-up in a brewery!

LORNA FRIIS
Via e-mail

Well's all but dry for solution to water crisis

(Re: "Water, water, everywhere," 6 February). While I applaud and admire Kori Chilibeck's initiative to help those far less fortunate than ourselves who live with plenty of this most precious resource, I'm not convinced that by extracting water from a local water supply is the answer. Where exactly is this supply? One only has to read *Whose Water Is It? The Unquenchable Thirst of a Water-Hungry World* to realize that we must be aware of rapidly diminishing water supplies all over the world. One chapter, entitled "Bottling a Birthright?" by Robert Glennon, should be mandatory reading for anyone buying bottled water.

So how should I now feel? I feel the utmost concern and despair for people all around the world who do not have access to water yet I do not know if this initiative is the answer. It truly is a huge dilemma.

CAROL TRACEY
Via e-mail

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, sent via carrier owl or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication.

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CRO penalty not very sweet

Decision on pre-campaigning materials should apply to soft drink giant too



JESSICA WARREN

Just before Reading Week began, Students' Union Chief Returning Officer Rachel Woynorowski fined the No side of the upcoming Coke plebiscite \$900 of its \$1000 budget for "pre-campaigning," or campaigning before the designated period beginning on 26 February. Since February 15, one appeal and two complaints have been filed by students against the Yes side.

Tempers have flared on both sides; however it's clear from the wording of the appeal and the complaints made to the CRO that both sides of this debate are working with different definitions of who exactly is included in the No side, and what should be considered pre-campaigning material.

The first major confusion arose when the CRO first fined SAKCoke for violating SU Election policy by distributing what Woynorowski understood to be No-side literature. When this decision was made, neither SAKCoke nor any other group on campus had signed on officially to lead the No side campaign. While the CRO claims that "[a member] from SAKCoke indicated [their] intention to act as the campaign manager," once sides were officially registered, legally neither SAKCoke nor Stop Killer Coke International—the organizations whose materials

SAKCoke had been distributing for International Week—were responsible for the No campaign at the time of the CRO's ruling.

The CRO based her decision upon the fact that although SAKCoke had not signed on as representing the No side, their stickers could still be seen as material "calculated to convince members to vote in a given way." While this may be true, a sticker that directs students to the website for Stop Killer Coke International (whose materials were being used by the local SAKCoke group) and contains a phrase like "Dasani is Daphony," is certainly no more powerful a campaigning tool than a Coca-Cola vending machine, bottle or scoreboard that also advertises the company's website and directs students to "Drink! Coca Cola" among other slogans.

This double standard has only been worsened by the CRO's ruling on a complaint filed against Coke for pre-campaigning on these same grounds. The CRO stated that, as a business, Coke has a right "to operate in accordance with its normal course of business."

The favouring of a for-profit business over a not-for-profit one is striking and unfounded—charities and citizen groups shouldn't have to cease their public education programs altogether if an issue they address in their mandate becomes an election issue.

A complaint was also made against the Gateway, accusing the paper of pre-campaigning for the Yes side by running an opinion article siding with the CRO's original decision to fine the No campaign \$900. The CRO ruled against the complainant, citing the need for freedom of the press and the fact that

the author of the article wasn't a volunteer for either side of the campaign.

However, this complaint seems to be more concerned with pointing out the hypocrisy of the CRO's original ruling than any attempt to restrict the press' ability to cover current events. Based on Woynorowski's somewhat confused logic on this issue to date, an opinion article has as much connection to one side of a campaign as a student group's literature that was present on campus before the plebiscite question was ever approved.

There is a double standard being employed here: SAKCoke gets punished for distributing pre-campaigning materials, while the arguably more influential pre-campaigning activities of the rich and powerful Coca-Cola corporation are overlooked. While I'm not suggesting Coke should have been forced to take down or cover up any advertisements found on campus during reading week, the decision to fine SAKCoke 90 per cent of its budget based upon violations of SU election policy is unacceptably harsh given the CRO's own logic concerning this case.

The assumption on Woynorowski's part that SAKCoke's literature constitutes campaign propaganda while Coke's does not, along with her protection of for-profit business rights over not-for-profit ones, has left the No side with barely enough money to fund its efforts for the remainder of the pre-election period.

This unfortunately will mean that students won't be given all sides of the story concerning the Coke contract, and the debate around its benefits and injuries done to students by its extension will remain unsatisfactory.

Students can't afford to pass this up



ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI

Given all of the attention and controversy that the plebiscite question on extending the exclusivity contract with Coca-Cola has received, it's been easy to overlook the other, more important question on the ballot facing students this year. Unlike the non-binding Coke plebiscite, whose results the Students' Union and the University can—and likely will—ignore if students don't support a contract extension, the results of the referendum on the Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) proposal will have important ramifications for all students.

The results of the vote on the U-Pass referendum will legally require the University and SU to add a few more dollars to the cost of a University of Alberta education—at least for some people. However, unlike the annual tuition hikes, where more money is siphoned from students who get little or nothing tangible in return for the increases, the U-Pass fee will provide something concrete and useful for all students. The proposed pass, which calls for a mandatory fee of \$75 per student per term, will provide all students not eligible for the limited opt-out with an all-encompassing transit pass.

For those student who rely on public transit to get to campus, supporting this

proposal should be a given. For only a fraction of the cost (\$150 versus \$432 for eight months annually, with savings of \$1128 over a the course of a four-year degree), students will be able to save for other university necessities like tuition, books and food. Beyond the simple monetary savings, students will also no longer have the hassle of having to stand in line to buy a monthly pass or ticket book.

Despite what people living on and around campus may say, if the U-Pass is approved in the election, they'll use the pass.

While it's easy to assume that only students who currently use transit will benefit the most from the U-Pass, adopting that point of view is too narrow and misses many of the U-Pass' benefits as experienced at other universities. At least a dozen other postsecondary institutions in Canada have worked U-Pass deals over the last decade, but one need only look at the University of British Columbia's experience—an institution of comparable size to the U of A—to debunk issues raised by non-transit-users.

In a 2005 study reviewing the effects of the UBC U-Pass, which was introduced in 2003, it was found that a year and half after the pass' introduction, 81 per cent of all students had used

their U-Pass. Therefore, despite what people living on and around campus may say, if the U-Pass is approved in the election, they'll use the pass. While this should be apparent to anyone familiar with the "if you build it, they will come" school of business, one should only expect use to be even higher at the U of A for the simple fact that while walking or riding your bike during Vancouver's wet-but-warm winters is a viable option, only the hardiest of souls try it in Edmonton.

The same study also outlined a host of benefits offered by the U-Pass beyond providing students with a cheaper bus pass. Overall transit ridership at UBC increased by 63 per cent in just two years, leading in turn to an increase in overall transit capacity; students reported savings of between \$160 – \$800 per year because of the access the U-Pass gave them for living and shopping locations; traffic around campus decreased; and demand for campus parking declined. All of these benefits have been seen at other schools, including the Universities of Calgary and Simon Fraser, so it's safe to assume that the U of A would see similar benefits.

Given the size of the student body, it's impossible to develop a plan or fee that works perfectly for every single student. Yet, while the U-Pass isn't perfect, after almost a decade of talk, false starts and one previous attempt, the U-Pass is finally on the verge of moving from Students' Union fantasy to student reality—a move that's long overdue and which should be embraced by all students.

MARK RUFFALO JAKE GYLLENHAAL ROBERT DOWNEY JR.

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Mental illness nothing to sneeze at

It's time for society to drop the stigma it attaches to such conditions



AMANDA
TERMEER

A long time ago, I used to be normal. Then one day I woke up and everything had changed. Suddenly the world became two-dimensional: reality was falsified by the flatness of the earth. I could hear voices telling me that the mall people (a type of alien hiding in the dark corners of HUB Mall) were after me. My moods were totally random: gleeful one moment, and suicidal the next.

I'm now aware that I have an illness, and it's quite manageable with the right kinds of medication: antidepressants, anti-psychotics, mood stabilizers. But at the time, I had no idea what was going on. I felt like a pubescent girl getting her first period after never having an explanation of human biology. I didn't realize I was sick—I just thought that the world had gone crazy.

However, many people are still in the mental illness closet, afraid to step forward and make a stand. Some refuse to acknowledge their illness, even though 20 per cent of Canadians will experience mental illness in their lifetime. Staying in the dark, away from treatments, and the public is dangerous. Some studies estimate that fully 90 per cent of suicides are caused by a diagnosable psychiatric illness.

Most serious illnesses are taken

seriously. People with a mental illness, however, are often ignored or frowned upon. When a scraggly looking woman talking about the apocalypse and rambling about voices in her head walks by, people point and laugh, avoiding eye contact. When a man falls and has a heart attack, people rush to rescue him, completely ignoring the mentally ill homeless woman.

A physical illness is more tangible for the average person. But we students aren't just average—we're university-educated. Instead of joining in the masses are boycotting the mentally ill,

People are afraid of embracing their disorder and treating themselves like a survivor.

we should start paying attention and try to truly understand the brain.

Mental illness is just that—an illness. To manage an illness, medication is necessary. Many people aren't aware of it, but taking medication has many side effects. For some patients, monthly or even weekly blood checks are necessary. Medications can cause weight gain, lowered white blood cells, acne, even diabetes. Those who take medications are putting themselves at risk, all for the sake of seeming less "crazy."

The stigma and labelling that comes with mental illness is also unfair. When someone has cancer, we say, "Jane has cancer." When someone has

schizophrenia or any other serious mental illness, we say "Jane is schizophrenic"—that is, they *become* the diagnosis. But no one would ever say, "Jane is cancerous."

People are afraid of embracing their disorder and treating themselves like a survivor. Most mental illness survivors hide in the darkness, knowing that their dirty little secret will cause friends, and sometimes even family, to avoid them. Another problem with mental illness is that it never fully goes away. People can struggle with neurosis and psychosis for their entire lives. No set of medication can ever make the illness go away.

Hollywood also has a unique portrayal of the "insane": brilliant minds crippled by schizophrenia (*A Beautiful Mind*); troubled writers (*Girl, Interrupted*), playful minds destroyed by institutionalization (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*).

Mentally ill people are also often sensationalized as murderers and psychopaths as well. It's been estimated that of all violence depicted on television, 70 per cent is caused by someone who is mentally ill. Overall, the stigma is usually either a troubled genius, or a destructive psychopath, but neither is accurate or fair.

Of course, life never is fair. As the great American beat poet Alan Ginsberg famously put it, "I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness starving hysterical naked, dragging themselves through the negro streets and dawn looking for an angry fix." So I'm going to take a step forward, and I urge others to join in our howl: I am a mental illness survivor!

Fines for Food a fine idea



MARIA
KOTOVYCH

I'm lazy and I procrastinate; I admit it. Before Reading Week, I stayed up until 2am writing a paper; now that I've handed it in, I'm still procrastinating. The books that I borrowed for my research are still sitting on my floor, and I've taken no initiative to return them. The cold weather we had before Reading Week also did nothing to get me off my ass and return those books.

And then I saw it, like a beacon of light in a stormy harbour (on the U of A Library's main page, to be exact): an advertisement for Fines for Food. Far from being some sort of punitive consumption tax, this promotion means that between 26 February and 4 March, the U of A Libraries will donate all the fines collected from overdue books to the Campus Food Bank.

Now, I'm not good at math by any stretch of the imagination, but here's the way I figure it: my books will be overdue soon, and then I'll incur a fine. The longer I take to return those books, the greater my fine will be. Therefore the more I procrastinate in returning my books this week, the more I'll be helping out the Campus Food Bank.

I can usually come up with pretty creative ways to justify my laziness, but this is just too perfect. And since Fines for Food is one of the largest fundraisers for the Campus Food Bank, I would actually be doing my fellow students a disservice by returning my books on

time. It's brilliant: never before has my laziness been thus rewarded—never before have I actually been able to benefit a cause by procrastinating.

Unfortunately, I only have two soon-to-be-overdue books. Had I thought this out better and taken out more books sooner, the resulting late fees would have been even bigger (and my grades probably would have gone up a notch or two as well). If students' grades on papers can be positively correlated with the number of books that they borrow, then the amount the Campus Food Bank can get from a student might be calculated in this way: "grade received" times "number of days books were overdue" times "daily fine per book." According to this logic, if you get good grades *and* you procrastinate, you'll be helping the Campus Food Bank! It's a win-win situation all around.

According to its website, the Campus Food Bank was able to provide food for over 2300 individuals last year. I think we're very fortunate to have such a service to help students in need, and we're equally lucky to have generous sponsors and individuals who donate money, food and/or time to this organization. Therefore it's important that the Campus Food Bank continues to receive support through campaigns like Fines for Food—after all, both tuition and the cost of living are going nowhere but up.

So now I appeal to you, dear library users: if you're able, please join me in intentionally incurring some late charges on those pesky library books that you've been meaning to return. The more we procrastinate, the more we can help make this campus a better place for all—as long as we do it by 4 March.

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CanWest crown taken from volley Bears

ANDREW RENFREE
Sports Staff

Last week started off well for the Bears volleyball team as they garnered numerous personal awards including Canada West Coach of the Year for Terry Danyluk, but despite being recognized individually, Alberta went home empty-handed as a team, failing to medal in the Canada West championship this weekend.

Alberta was favoured to win gold in the Canada West Final Four after finishing first in the regular season with a 17-1 record, but a loss to UBC Thursday night relegated the Bears to the bronze medal game, which they lost to Winnipeg; though all four teams had already booked their tickets to next weekend's National Championships in Hamilton. The match against UBC was a see-saw battle with the teams exchanging set wins, but the T-Birds came out on top and upset Alberta 3-2.

"We played pretty tough defensively and offensively, and it takes a full game to beat a quality squad like Alberta," UBC head coach Richard Schick noted. "We had guys come ready to play. It didn't matter who we were playing we just wanted to play well, and we played well enough to win."

"We made a few more mistakes than [UBC Thursday]. It was a four-point difference in total points, and we made 52 errors to their 49. With all of those things together, that made the difference in the match," Danyluk added. "It wasn't like they outplayed us or we outplayed them; we played each other in streaks and they got the

breaks that they needed."

UBC has been a thorn in Alberta's side in recent years, being the only team to beat Alberta in the regular season last year and in 2004/05. The games between these Canada West powerhouses have been tightly fought this year as well: the last time these teams met, UBC won the first two sets but Alberta stormed back to win the match. Schick and his squad were frustrated by their inability to beat Alberta this year, but knew that to win the conference, they would have to overcome the Bears.

"We knew that, when we were here a couple of weeks back, we didn't play overly well, and we were hoping that we were going to get the opportunity to be back," said Schick, whose team went on to lose to Trinity Western in the gold medal match. "Was it revenge? No. We wanted to play for the Canada West Championship and that meant playing Alberta, so that's what we had to do."

On Saturday night, Alberta took on Winnipeg in the bronze medal match and after winning the first two sets against the Wesmen, it looked like the Bears would redeem themselves from the loss against UBC. However, Winnipeg rallied to win the next three sets, and Alberta had to settle for a disappointing fourth-place finish.

"We started off playing real well, and then [Winnipeg] started changing up their serve a bit and putting up some trouble," Danyluk said of Saturday's game. "The biggest thing for me was, I thought, we just let ourselves come down to their emotional level. They

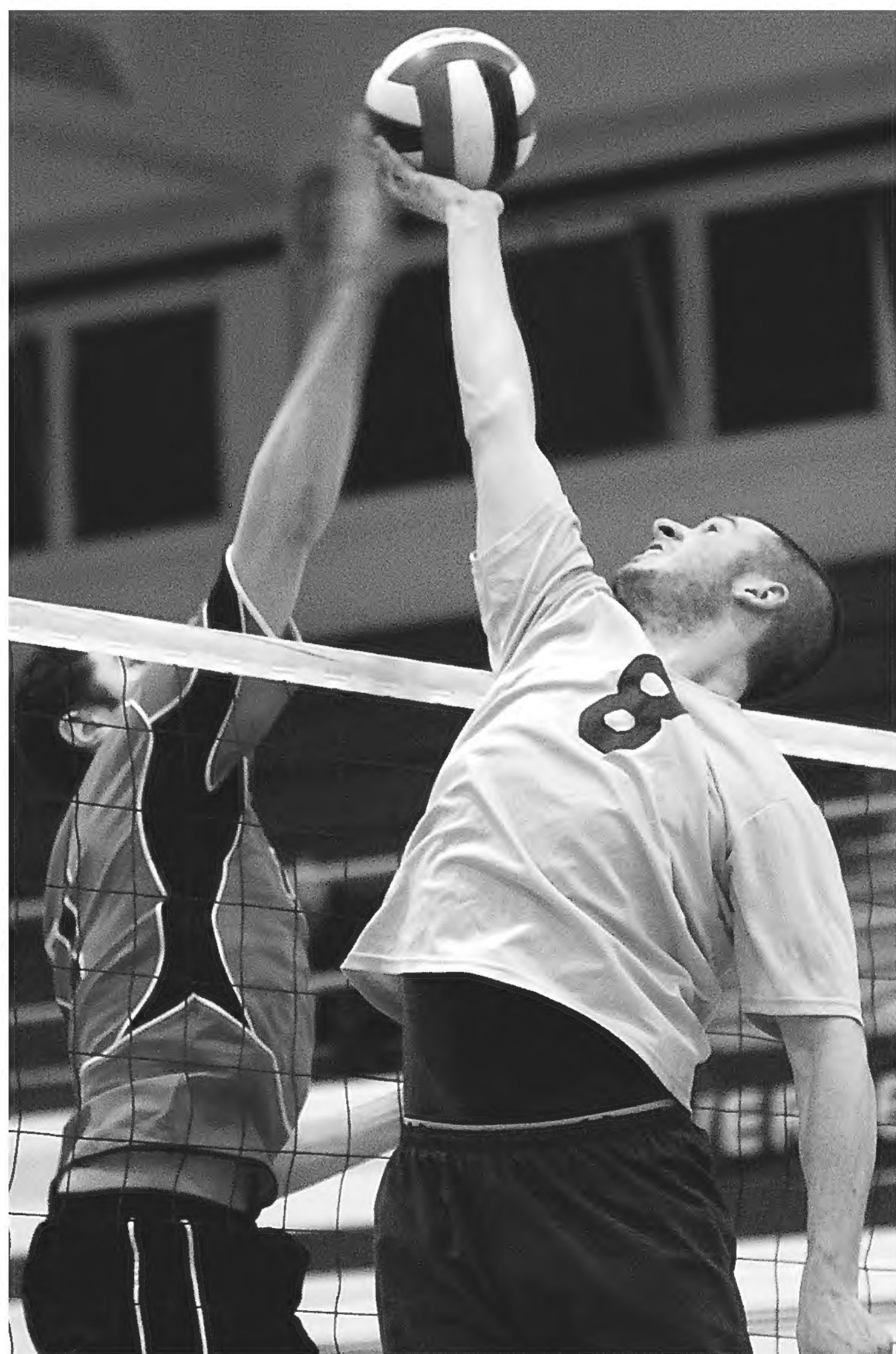
played with no emotion and it was quiet games three and four. Even when we were leading, nobody was saying anything in the gym—our players, [the Wesmen] or the fans—so I think we got in a bit of a trap and put some pressure on ourselves."

The loss was the toughest on fifth-year Bears Justin Wong and Derek Proudfoot, who played their last game in the Main Gym Saturday night. Wong, who was chosen as Canada West Libero of the Year, reflected on his CIS career and losing his last two home games.

"For me it was my last game in this gym and it was a big game for me. I'd be lying to you if I said I'm not upset at how we played, because it's tough," Wong said. "I'm not usually an emotional guy when it comes to this, but I'm glad that I can still play; it's not over. I told the guys I'm going to feel this feeling for today and maybe a little bit tomorrow but after that it's back to the gym and going back to what we've got to do to win."

Wong admitted that the biggest challenge for him and his teammates will be to put this disappointing weekend behind them and focus on the National Championships next weekend.

"As a team we can't come out of this weekend thinking negative things. It happened and now we have to let it go," he said. "I think we're very fortunate that we still have a second chance; we're still going to Nationals and we have another opportunity to win. There's still a week left, three games, and those are matches that we've got to win."



JUST OUT OF REACH Brock Pehar (8) jousts for the ball against a Wesmen opponent in Saturday night's loss. The Bears finished fourth in the conference.

MIKE OTTO



ERIN NEFENWICK

OPEN ON THE INBOUND Kara Stevens (6) inboundes the ball to post Michelle Anderson (13) in action on Sunday. Alberta beat the Huskies in three games.

Sunday surge gives hoops Pandas first post-season win since 2002

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Staff

It may have taken them the whole weekend to beat their rival University of Saskatchewan Huskies in their best-of-three playoff matchup, but there was no stopping the Pandas basketball squad on Sunday as they ran away with the game and a berth in the Canada West Final Four. Alberta built an early lead in the first quarter, outscoring their opponents 22-9, and kept the advantage in the double digits for the rest of the game, downing the Huskies 89-71.

"It was amazing," said Patricia Ariss, the third-year Pandas forward who led her team with 18 points on Sunday. "We really had nothing to lose today. We knew that it was potentially the last game of the season, and we didn't want it to be."

"Everybody that went on the court played well. Everyone that went on did their job, and got it done."

After fighting off the Huskies for a 63-50 victory on Friday and falling 71-63 Saturday, the Pandas found their stroke on Sunday, shooting .483 from the field and .500 from three-point territory, an improvement that made the difference, according to Alberta head coach Scott Edwards.

"We shot 35 per cent for two games in a row, but eventually the ball has to

drop in your own gym," he said. "I think the shooters really understood when they needed to shoot the ball. There was no hesitation at all, and we were aggressive getting to the rim. They refocused from [Saturday]."

"Alberta played great. They were very physical and we didn't respond to it," added Huskies head coach Lisa Thomaidis on Sunday. "They had us back on our heels right from the start, and then we were in too much of a hole to try to come back from. Today they were the better team."

Sunday's matchup was especially emotional for the seniors who were facing the end of their careers. Alberta's Michelle Smith helped establish their large first-quarter lead with 13 of her 17 points in the first half, out-dueling Saskatchewan's graduating all-stars Sarah Crooks and Ashley Dutchak.

"Michelle's a big-time player, and for her last game in this gym, I don't think she was going to go out with a bad game. I knew she'd play well today," Edwards said. "Michelle is unbelievable. She's a big part of this team: the emotional and spiritual leader."

Neither Dutchak nor Crooks wanted to go home either: they combined for 37 of Saskatchewan's 71 points, and forced the Pandas to work hard to contain them both throughout the

weekend without losing sight of the rest of the team.

"We always knew that Crooks and Dutchak were going to get their points, so it was just a matter of trying to limit them," said Pandas point guard Ashley Wigg. "They're great players, obviously, and we had to limit their touches, and then try to control the others."

"Obviously it's very disappointing, and not what we had hoped for this weekend. It's tough that it's over," said Crooks, the CIS all-time leading rebounder who was given a standing ovation when she was taken out with just over a minute remaining and the outcome of the game all but decided. "The U of A played really hard and they deserved to win. They were on fire."

"We have so much respect for that kid," Edwards said of Crooks. "It's sad to see a great player like that end her career."

The win puts the Pandas in the Canada West Final Four next weekend, where a win in their first matchup against the Simon Fraser Clan will send them to St John's for the CIS Championships.

"I've never been here before, and I can't even put the feeling into words," Ariss said. "We're one win away from going to Nationals, so I couldn't feel better about it."